

الجمعة 11 مايو 1996

Saturday May 11 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50, Albania L 2.50, Australia A 0.25, Bahrain B 0.25, Bangladesh B 1.70, Belgium B 1.20, Brazil B 1.20, Canada C 1.00, Czech Republic C 0.40, Denmark D 1.50, Dubai D 0.50, Egypt E 0.50, Finland F 0.50, France F 1.00, Germany G 1.50, Greece G 0.50, Hong Kong H 0.50, Hungary H 0.50, India I 0.50, Ireland I 0.50, Israel I 0.50, Italy I 0.50, Japan J 0.50, Korea K 1.50, Kuwait K 0.50, Latvia L 0.50, Lithuania L 0.50, Luxembourg L 0.50, Macedonia M 0.50, Maldives M 0.50, Malta M 0.50, Mauritius M 0.50, Mexico M 0.50, Monaco M 0.50, Morocco M 0.50, New Zealand N 0.50, Norway N 0.50, Oman O 1.00, Pakistan P 0.50, Poland P 0.50, Portugal P 0.50, Qatar Q 0.50, Romania R 0.50, Saudi Arabia S 1.00, Slovakia S 0.50, Slovenia S 0.50, Spain S 0.50, Sweden S 0.50, Switzerland S 0.50, Taiwan T 0.50, Thailand T 0.50, Turkey T 0.50, USA U 2.00, Zimbabwe Z 0.50

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,550

Norway gets serious about Eurovision

Nul points no more

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The lives and wives of a legend

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Tennis

Steffi Graf tumbles to Swiss teenager

Sport page 9

'We still believe in decency, hard work and fairness'

Blair defines British dream

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY Blair unveiled the centrepiece yesterday of Labour's campaign to end 17 years in the political wilderness when he accused the Thatcher and Major governments of creating an insecure majority among voters who would turn against them "with a vengeance".

Speaking in Swansea, the Labour leader contrasted the British dream with the world of job insecurity, higher taxes and fears of homelessness and crime in which most people now lived as a result of ministerial ideology and error.

"You still believe in the British dream. You still believe in British values, in decency, hard work, and fairness. You still long to do better for yourselves and your families and you long for Britain to do better too. You are proud to be British but too much of that pride depends on history and nostalgia and not on what Britain is today.

"It is Labour that offers the new British dream now. Labour that can build a new Britain that is fair, efficient, and can regain our standing in the world."

With one eye firmly on disenfranchised middle class voters — and their wavering Conservative MPs — he even called New Labour the party of one nation radicals, capable of reuniting the country with a devolved democracy, an efficient economy and a reformed welfare state.

But Mr Blair's intention to launch a "lost generation" campaign next week to highlight the plight of jobless and unskilled people ran into fire from senior Conservatives seeking to exploit concern that the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, may decide to abolish child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds, without recompense for needy families.

Deriding Labour's efforts to appeal to the middle class, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, accused Mr Brown of inventing a "teenage tax" and proclaimed the

Visions

'The Germans have an image of organisation; Italy has one of flair. At the moment Britain does not have an image. We need to get an image again both as a nation and a football nation.'

Terry Venables

'I had a dream of Britain and it was that the Labour leader would stop colluding with bigoted military chiefs, who supports the ban on lesbians and gay men in the armed forces.'

Peter Tatchell

'I am glad that he is naming the lost generation but I think that we need to give them an entry point to tell us their dreams and disappointments.'

Suzie Orbach

'I would like to see the word caring put into any dream of Britain. The divide is widening between those who have and those who have not.'

Max Clifford

'Streets filled with laughing, happy, frolicking scousers.'

John Peel

Tories to be "the party of the hard-working classes. We don't care if they have blue collars or blue blood."

Stirring what he undoubtedly saw as real discontent among Labour MPs over the child benefit scheme's potential impact on post-16 education, he challenged them to support Mr Brown's review publicly. Mr Blair did that unequivocally in Swansea.

With ministers like Mr Lilley using the Scottish Tory



Tony Blair unveils the "new British dream" at Labour's Welsh conference yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GARETH LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS

conference in Aberdeen to test themes for the election, the Labour leader used his party's Welsh conference to do the same. He mocked John Major's prevarications over the Westminster council scandal as proof that a degenerate party governed Britain.

As ministers struggle to rekindle the feel-good factor, he argued that 17 years of Tory electoral success "was based on their willingness to tolerate an insecure minority."

But it is the majority that feels insecure today.

"The electoral battlefield was portrayed as Labour for the poor and disadvantaged — against the Tories as the party of the secure and comfortable majority," Mr Blair said. "It has changed. It is Labour that now speaks up for the insecure majority and puts forward the policies that meet their concerns. And it is the Tories who speak only for the privileged few."

The Labour leader added: "It is today's thirtysomethings and fortysomethings that now fear both for their children and for their parents."

This week's Guardian/ICM poll, however, saw Labour's lead slip 4 per cent in the Liberal Democrats' direction, a move which Lib Dem strategists believe reflects emerging voter mistrust of Labour rhetoric.

The post-16 child benefit row is a case in point. Yesterday Mr Blair stressed it was still only an option to see if the money could be better spent along with that spent on the assisted places scheme.

"Insufficient numbers of our young people stay on at school."

"There are large problems of youth unemployment. A lot of our young people are not getting properly skilled or educated," he said.

Notebook, page 22

Whoever wins the Cup, Wembley will make a killing



Phil Babb of Liverpool: winner's medal would earn bonus

John Duncan
Sport Correspondent

MANCHESTER United seem almost as much in gate money from their average Premiership match as they will from today's FA Cup final, the biggest match of the season.

The owners of Wembley stadium may make twice as much out of the match as either United or their opponents, Liverpool.

Each club receives £700,000 from the gate, £100,000 more than the average Old Trafford match. They also claim a share of the television pool, which takes their income to

about £1 million, but players' win bonuses and hotel expenses eat heavily into that, leaving them with about £800,000 each.

Wembley's makes a profit of about £1.5 million. The Football Association's deal with Wembley, struck in the 1990s, allowed the company to make huge profits from FA events at the stadium through pitchside advertising, car parking, catering and the matchday programme.

From total gate receipts today Wembley will receive £940,000, to which is added its share of the £1 million TV money for the final — in 1985 that gave it £220,000. Add to that a share of the £480,000

matchday programme profits (£8 each, expected sales of 80,000), £28,000 in car park receipts (7,000 spaces at £4 each) and money from catering contracts, and Wembley will be about £1.5 million better off tomorrow morning.

Wembley admits that the Cup final is its biggest payday but argues that the money subsidises other games. "Not every event is a moneyspinner like this," said Martin Corrie, the Wembley spokesman, "but in order to hold other smaller events we need to get income from the bigger events. We have a contract with the FA which reflects a recent partnership agreement. How the money is

then allocated is their responsibility."

The FA is diplomatic over the Wembley deal. "You can't look at the Cup final in isolation from the other events," said Mark Day, FA director of finance. "The next day they have the Vase and they won't make a killing out of that. However, clearly, if we were doing a deal now rather than 15 years ago it would not be the same. No one could have foreseen the growth in TV money and sponsorship."

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Manchester United are expected to boost Andy Cole for today's FA Cup Final. Ian Hirst is likely to be on the bench for Liverpool.

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Sport

Manchester United are expected to boost Andy Cole for today's FA Cup Final. Ian Hirst is likely to be on the bench for Liverpool.

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Prague Writers' Festival 1996

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Meet them at the Viola Theatre, Narodni 7, (nearest metro Narodni) from May 9-11. For more details call: 44 171 7134133

Thursday May 9

Sylvia Fischerova - Czech Republic
Andrzej Sosnowski - Poland
Evelyn Schiag - Austria
Nuno Júdice - Portugal

Friday May 10

Paul Durcan - Ireland
John F. Deane - Ireland
James Kelman - Scotland
R.S. Thomas - Wales

Saturday May 11

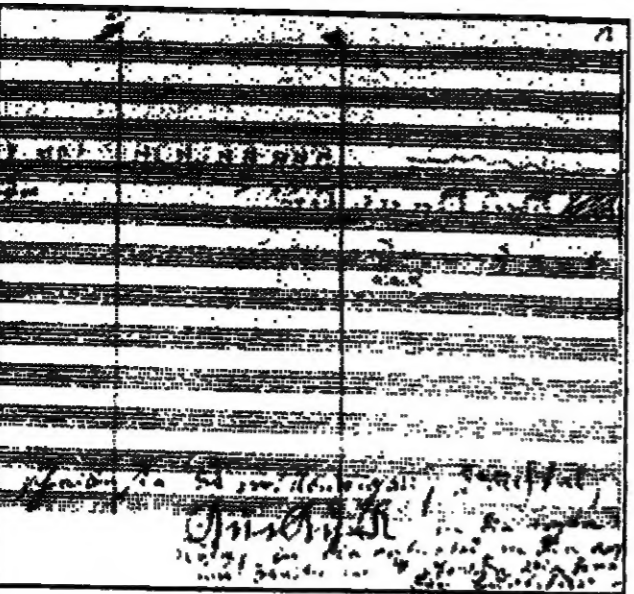
Ewald Murrer - Czech Republic
Jim Barnes - USA
Abdullah al-Udhari - Yemen
Natan Zach - Israel

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Opening bars of the Fifth Symphony, stolen by Beethoven



Part of the Sixth Symphony, but whose was the theme?



Conductor John Eliot Gardiner, who claims Beethoven stole themes for political purposes



Beethoven: making sublime music from second-rate



Gossec: working a decade before Beethoven



Méhul: one of five French propagandists for Republic

Revolutionary theory shows Beethoven 'pinched' his famous tunes

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

THE opening notes to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony are, among the most familiar bars of music to modern audiences. They may also have been familiar to 18th century audiences — even before the German composer wrote them.

Beethoven, according to John Eliot Gardiner, one of Britain's leading conductors, "pinched" many of his best-known themes from a group of obscure French revolutionary composers working in the decade before he produced his most famous symphonies.

The opening to the Fifth Symphony, the flute tune from the Pastoral and the chorus from the Seventh Symphony were not written by Beethoven, who died in 1827, the conductor claims. In tomorrow night's South Bank Show on ITV, Mr Gardiner, one of the foremost conductors of Beethoven, identifies five composers whose work was part of a trend of revolutionary propaganda music at the end of the 18th century, written to promote the cause of the new French Republic. The five, François Joseph Gossec, Luigi Cherubini, Étienne-Nicolas Méhul, and Xavier Lefèvre are previously obscure, although the fifth, Rouget de Lisle, wrote the Marseillaise, the French national anthem.

"I think it is blatant pinching," Mr Gardiner said yesterday. "It is not straight pla-

giarism in the sense that Beethoven was trying to nick someone else's ideas. It was a coded political message and that was the obvious way he could do it without getting into trouble."

Mr Gardiner first encountered the possibility that Beethoven may have received inspiration from the music of the French Revolution when studying the work of a little-known 1820s German musicologist, Arnold Schmalz.

Mr Gardiner, together with musicologist David Charlton, took the theory a stage further and produced names and specific pieces of music that bear a startling resemblance to some of Beethoven's most famous works. "Beethoven's music, particularly with the words attached to it, would have been political dynamite," said Mr Gardiner. "It seemed that he wanted to convey his identity with the ideas of the French Revolution in a way that would be clear to the intellectuals in his audience without at the same time getting himself stuck into jail as a subversive."

Beethoven, in common with many artists and intellectuals at the end of the 18th century, had great sympathy with the ideas of the French Revolution. But his work had previously been thought to be divorced from politics.

"It shows that he was not an isolated genius, isolated from politics and musical events, composing in his garage," said Mr Gardiner. "He was very much a man of his time and extremely sus-



De Lisle, composer of the Marseillaise, during a rendition of one of his pieces promoting the cause of the French Revolution

ceptible to the intellectual stimulus of the French Revolution."

Nicholas Kenyon, controller of BBC Radio 3, said yesterday that many composers drew on the folk music or the well-known tunes of their day. "To some people that would be what makes their music so remarkable, in that they are able to draw on something that immediately makes a connection with the audience of the day and then make something extraordinary of it."

Hugh Canning, Sunday Times music critic, says the Baroque age was an orgy of plagiarism. "Bach's harpsichord concertos borrowed from Vivaldi's violin concertos. Gossec wrote music that has been attributed to Gluck, and Mozart takes from Handel's Requiem."

Perhaps questions of attribution belong to another, more modern age. "Originality is quite a new concept in classical music," said Classic CD magazine's Daniel Jaffe.

"It's something that's come about partly through romantic ideas about inspiration and originality, and is even more important nowadays that people are eager to get as much earnings from their own work as possible."

"The chances of descendants of the five French composers receiving fat royalty cheques seem small. "It is interesting marginalia," said Mr Gardiner, "the debt that genius owes to the second rate. It's fascinating to me that music that's not really all that interesting can become sublime."

Leader comment, page 14

A maestro and a task-master with a bent for authenticity

JOHN Eliot Gardiner is, at the age of 53, one of Britain's top two conductors, writes Dan Glaister. His interpretations of Beethoven and Berlioz have brought him recognition as one of the great conductors of his generation. This summer, he is due to conduct Beethoven's opera, Fidelio, at the Proms.

Educated at Cambridge, where he read history, he became the youngest Proms conductor of his day at the age of 25. He has formed several ensembles, includ-

ing the Motet Choir and the English Baroque Soloists, recording Britten, Mozart, Purcell, Schubert and others. His current enthusiasm is for authenticity, with his London-based Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique dedicated to recreating the instrumentation and performance of classical music. "It stops the mindless reproduction of music of the past in an all-purpose style," he says. The Guardian once referred to him as "the Karajan of period performance", and he confesses to having a "terrible reputation", reputed to rule his ensembles with merciless baton.

Two years ago he suggested that Beethoven's music was written with a faulty metronome.

Lloyds shuns Railtrack

Keith Harper Transport Editor

LLOYDS became the second large clearing bank to warn its richest investors that they would be taking risks in buying shares in Railtrack when it is privatised on May 20.

The bank has written to customers of Lloyds Private Banking, its private banking scheme, asset management scheme, pointing out that because of "political concerns", Railtrack shares — priced at between 340p and 390p — "are unlikely to be a rewarding

long-term investment". Lloyds Private Banking said it would not be applying for shares for asset management clients. In the shorter term it did not envisage adding the shares to clients' portfolios. The National Westminster Bank has already issued a similar warning.

Lloyds later confirmed that some of its "more conservative customers" had been told by some managers of the problems of longer-term investment. A number of managers had acted in what they believed was the best interests of customers, the bank said. The Government's 100 per

cent sell-off has been constructed with an eye on the next election. Short-term investors are guaranteed a 25 per cent return on shares by next March, but a change of government could affect Railtrack's long-term future, even though Labour has made it clear that it could not return it to the public sector immediately. Clare Short, Labour's shadow transport secretary, said: "We want would-be investors to be aware of our plans. Some may be looking to ride the gravy train with Railtrack, as they did with other privatisations. But there are not going to be any cheap bucks for them this time. The banks have been privately concerned for months about the sale of British Rail's 25 passenger franchises, although the amounts of money involved are not very large. This latest news is not expected to affect the Railtrack sell-off materially. The Government is still confident of achieving a return of between £1.75 and £1.95 billion, but the doubts of two important clearing banks may turn off last-minute investors.

Gas chief's £100,000 'hello'

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

BRITISH Gas was heading into fresh controversy last night when it emerged that it is to pay a £100,000 "golden hello" to a new senior director.

The chairman and chief executive, Richard Giordano, announced the group was recruiting David Varney, managing director of Shell UK, to head Transco International, one of two companies being created out of British Gas.

Mr Varney has been offered a salary of £385,000 a year plus a one-off bonus of £100,000 to compensate him for loss of benefits, including share options and enhanced pension entitlements, at Shell. He will become chief executive designate of Transco from June 1.

British Gas insisted the "golden hello" was strictly a one-off payment and would not be repeated in later years, as in two recent pay awards to new directors which infuriated City investors. Mr Varney's appointment is the latest in a series of execu-

tive hirings from outside the company and means only two of its top 14 executive posts are filled by people with long service with British Gas. It marks an end to the tradition of directors rising through the ranks to take high office, including the former chief executive, Cedric Brown, whose 75 per cent pay increase to £481,000 a year ahead of retirement caused an outcry over executive pay within privatised industries.

Mr Giordano — who is paid £450,000 a year — said of the new appointments: "A vital task is all but accomplished. We will have the skills and experience to take these two new companies forward." The company had for some time been preoccupied with "managing the changes arising from market liberalisation and restructuring."

Mr Brown's departure was announced in February when British Gas revealed it was splitting into Transco International and British Gas Energy.

Transco includes the company's £18 billion network of gas pipes in the UK and the international exploration and production business.

British Gas Energy includes the UK supply business, the Morecambe Bay gas fields, and the huge liability for "take or pay" gas contracts — long-term commitments to buy high-priced gas which the company can no longer sell because its market has been eroded by competition. Roy Gardner, executive director operations for British Gas, will be Mr Varney's counterpart at British Gas Energy. His salary as chief executive designate will remain fixed at £320,000 a year.

Philip Rogerson, the director in charge of the demerger, is being made executive deputy chairman of British Gas and the two successor companies, and will have special responsibility for regulatory matters. His salary remains fixed at £305,000 a year.

The demerger is set to be achieved by next spring. But immediately the company faces a new problem, when on Monday, the Ofgas director-general, Claire Spottiswood, is expected to impose 10 per cent cuts in the prices charged by Transco, a move which the City believes will force the company to cut dividend payments this year.

Some of you will remember when Mystic Meg Thatcher told the Commonwealth: 'Anyone who thinks that the ANC is going to run South Africa is living in cloud cuckoo land'

Vincent Hanna

Outlook page 17

4 DAYS TO GO

NOON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY APPLICATION DEADLINE

There's still time to apply. Completed application forms must be in by Noon on Wednesday 15 May. Prospectuses containing application forms are available from branches of The Royal Bank of Scotland and from main Post Offices.

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News in brief

Teenage girl faces murder charge

A 16-year-old girl appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with a murder committed when she was 13. She is alleged to have murdered Katie Rackliff, aged 18, a hairdresser, as she walked home from Ragamuffins nightclub in Camberley, Surrey, on June 7, 1992. The hairdresser's half-naked body was found in a cemetery in Farnborough, Hampshire. She had been stabbed 27 times and sexually assaulted.

Labour nominees for Dearing

A POLITICAL truce over higher education was established yesterday when the Government appointed Labour nominees to Sir Ron Dearing's committee of inquiry into the future of universities.

Britain's top soccer thug dies

BRITAIN'S No. 1 soccer thug, Paul Scarrott — jailed 13 times and convicted 40 times for football violence — has died in a Spanish hospital. The 40-year-old collapsed after a heavy drinking session with friends in Barcelona and was rushed to hospital.

New evidence in killing

FRESH alibi evidence could have established the innocence of a man convicted of murdering his girlfriend's parents, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. It said there were other doubts about the evidence which had rendered a guilty verdict unsafe.

Britain faces green challenge

THE European Commission is being challenged in the European Court to reveal details of confidential deals with United Kingdom, Ireland and other EU states which kept them from being prosecuted for breaches of environmental law.

Gas phobia woman loses

A DOG breeder with a phobia for gas faces a huge legal bill after losing a High Court case to stop a pipeline being opened up beneath her home.

Committee on standards turns to local government penalties in wake of Westminster scandal

Nolan reviews surcharges

James Mollie, Community Affairs Editor
THE Nolan committee on standards in public life is to investigate the system of surcharging councillors and local government officers in the wake of the £31.7 million penalty imposed on Dame Shirley Porter and five others in Westminster for gerrymandering.

Dame Shirley and others accused by district auditor John Magill are expected to appeal to the High Court against his findings of misconduct and the surcharges he imposed. She complained that the system, introduced by the Thatcher government in 1982, involved Mr Magill being "prosecutor, judge and jury".

review of the general processes involved in investigations like this one... "Any review would need to weigh carefully the balance between the public interest in seeing such cases dealt with as expeditiously as possible and the need to ensure that all the parties concerned are treated fairly."

Stalker bill lost as Eubank case is heard

Owen Bowcott
A PRIVATE member's bill designed to outlaw stalking was yesterday killed off by the Home Office on the day the wife of the boxer, Chris Eubank, obtained an injunction against an intruder.



Catalogue of obsessions leading to convictions

In the first case of its kind brought against a stalker, Anthony Burstow, a former Navy officer, was jailed in March for three years on charges of inflicting grievous bodily harm through psychiatric damage. He hounded Tracy Sant for three years, breaking into her home, sending her a soiled sanitary towel, stealing her underwear, pouring solvent on her car and writing sinister notes.

Hollywood's favourite sons open fire on 'no risk' culture of the industry's 'dreary middle managers'

Joanna Coles in Cannes
HOLLYWOOD came under attack from two of its favourite sons yesterday when both the actor Dustin Hoffman and the director Francis Ford Coppola said it was no longer possible to make decent films there.

It had been influenced by violence. He refused several parts because of the six big studios which dominate Hollywood of being incapable of taking artistic risks. Instead, there was a feeling that the bigger the budget the better the film, when in fact the opposite was more likely to be the case.

million dollars on one film than 10 million. If the film did not take enough money in its first weekend, it was considered a failure, which was an unbearable pressure for those involved in making it.

Ofsted chief relishes role

John Carvel Education Editor
THE man who has emerged as the strongest voice in education must be feeling more than usually pleased with himself as he files off this weekend for a working break in New Zealand, evangelising his distinctive personal technique for playing hardball with "incompetent" teachers.

Clarke jeers 'tartan tax'

Erlend Clouston
AN EDINBURGH parliamentarian with taxation powers would be a "knife in the back of Scotland", the Conservatives claimed yesterday.

Blair signals compromise on gays in military

Michael White Political Editor
TONY Blair signalled yesterday that a Labour government would negotiate "proper codes of conduct with the military" over the acceptance of gays and lesbians in the armed forces.

From High-Flier to Downshifter. Why more and more people are trading money for happiness. Tomorrow in the Observer.

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The Guardian Saturday May 11 1996

Law Society leadership row heats up

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE campaign against Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, gained momentum yesterday when Michael Napier, president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, gave his support to the launch of a movement to oust Mr Mears.

Mr Napier told the annual conference of the 2,800-member association: "If the current negative public perception of the image of solicitors is to be repaired, our profession needs strong and statesmanlike leadership demonstrating that we are a modern and united profession."

"If that is the perception coming out of Chancery Lane [the society's London headquarters] at the moment, I am, with apologies to Private Eye, a banana."

"So I urge the solicitor members of the association to take serious note of the alternative grassroots solicitors' movement that has been announced today calling for new leadership, and I also urge them to ensure that this year everyone exercises their democratic right to vote."

The Campaign for New Leadership claims Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, have turned the profession into a "laughing stock" and let its affairs go to "rack and ruin". It calls on them to stand down "if the profession is not to be damaged beyond repair".

In a letter circulated to council members, local law societies, and 600 solicitors, the campaign accuses Mr Mears and Mr Sayer of "chasing media opportunities for their maverick views". It adds: "Ever since they were elected, the Law Society has wallowed whilst they have run a perpetual election campaign, and picked fights with staff members who cannot answer back."

"The profession cannot afford another year of the same. Martin Mears and Robert Sayer have run on conflict — but achieve nothing."

In an article in the New Law Journal yesterday, Mr Mears claimed he was the victim of a "campaign of vilification and disinformation" and said his support around the country was stronger than ever. His most vociferous opponents were "a small coterie of metropolitan leftists".

Senior officers are confident they will make more

The campaign is calling for candidates to come forward to oppose the pair in this summer's elections. So far no one has declared an intention to stand, though moves are afoot to assemble a slate of candidates.

Mr Mears yesterday branded the campaign members "establishment hacks" and accused them of "disinformation and lies", claiming their documents showed they had been helped by a disgruntled Law Society employee.

Several key officials have left or announced their departure after run-ins with Mr Mears. He added: "In due course I shall be kicking this farago to bits."

Mr Napier is a member of the society's 25-strong council, only nine of whom are declared Mears supporters. A former partner of Rodger Pannone and a past president, he declared himself out of the running yesterday, pleading the pressures of running a large practice.

Launching the campaign yesterday, the chairman, Coventry solicitor Kevin Martin, said the catalyst was a series of incidents and articles involving Mr Mears which had "increasing dismay". "The final straw was the president's speech to a women lawyers' conference last month, received in stony silence, when he attacked 'discrimination zealots who thrive on grievances and heresy hunting and use minorities as raw material for their whinge factories'."

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Senior officers are confident they will make more



The former soccer star helping to launch BBC's forthcoming Best Night in London yesterday PHOTOGRAPH DAVID MANSELL

BBC's 'Best fest' recalls 50 years of the good, the bad and the bubbly

John Duncan on Britain's 'greatest'



Best in his heyday with Manchester United

FOR those who measure the passage of time in sporting memories, Sunday, May 19, could be a depressing day.

George Best, that scrawny, black-haired 17-year-old who donned a Manchester United shirt for the first time in 1963 and quickly became Britain's greatest-ever footballer, will be 50 years old.

But attempts to sweep the anniversary under the carpet are futile, thanks to BBC's Best Night, an evening of Best material — on that very day.

The coverage will include a documentary on the man, 10 of his best goals, a Manchester United family tree, Best's choice of the best of British (an unpredictable selection including Robbie Fowler, Mike England and Stuart Pearce), and a return of the 1966 European Cup quarter-final against Benfica which shot "El Beagle" to stardom.

Best launched the evening at Football Football, a London restaurant where visitors are greeted at the door by a talking black bust of Best, suitably positioned

within a champagne cork's throw of the bar. In real life, though, he speaks well enough for himself, and yesterday fulminated on superstardom, prison and alcoholism — the good, the bad and the bubbly of his 50 years. He even revealed that he had actually come out on top after years of heavy gambling and casino dwelling — "though nowadays I nearly have a heart attack if I lose a tennis". "I am surprised sometimes I have made it this far," said Best. "I went

through a bad time when I didn't think I would make it and even one stage when I didn't want to, when I was really in the gutter. The trouble with being in the gutter is that people tend to step over you, but I pulled myself out."

"It's strange how things change though. Ten years ago I couldn't go out because everywhere I went people wanted to fight me. Now everyone wants to shake my hand — even kids of 10 who have probably only heard of me through their great-grandfather."

Best at (nearly) 50 is starting to look a little grandfatherly himself, but while the trappings of his youth remain — an 11am glass of champagne (tipped) sat on the table as his latest wife Alex (blonde, of course) looked on — one senses that he now knows what the press and public expect of him and is happy to oblige.

"He's still the same rascal he ever was," said Michael Parkinson, who has recorded a candid interview with Best for the themed evening.

"He always had this willful streak in him but you can't deny that he was the greatest entertainer ever."

And tomorrow's Cup Final? "The last time I went to a Cup Final that United were in was 1983, and it was a nightmare," said Best. "I was staying at the Wembley Hilton but there was such chaos in the hotel with everyone pestering me that I couldn't get out, so I watched it in the room with a bottle of wine. "I might just do that again."

Violent Newcastle fans face dawn call as police crack down in preparation for Euro 96

Peter Hetherington

SCORES of Newcastle United supporters at the centre of rioting earlier this week will shortly be arrested in a series of dawn raids after extensive examination of closed circuit television film.

The police swoop is to drive home the message that they will crack down hard on any disorder during the European football championships, which could bring up to 300,000 overseas fans to England next month.

"retrospective arrests" than in any similar mainland police operation with the aid of Britain's most extensive closed circuit television (CCTV) system, installed three years ago in Newcastle.

Almost 1,000 fans rampaged through the city centre, causing extensive damage to shops and cars and attacking bystanders. Although officers charged 29 people with public order offences after the final league game of the season — in which Newcastle failed to win the championship — they have used CCTV to identify more troublemakers.

Superintendent Peter Durham, central Newcastle commander, who chairs a national committee of senior officers preparing for the championships, said: "CCTV has never been used so extensively in a police operation. We want to make an impact and send out a clear warning before Euro 96."

The tournament kicks off with England playing Switzerland at Wembley on June 8, finishing with a final at the stadium on June 30. Another 23 group games will then be held in the space of 11 days in Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and Nottingham.

Some councillors and MPs in the host cities are unhappy with magistrates for granting long licensing extensions in pubs and clubs — particularly in Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle. Drunkenness played a large part in the Newcastle troubles, where police were pelted with bottles and cans.

In central Manchester, and Liverpool, licensing magistrates have decided to let pubs stay open until 1am for much of June. Many clubs and restaurants will be allowed to stay open until 4am. In Newcastle, pubs will close at midnight, while clubs

and restaurants have been given extensions until 3am. Police have encouraged the longer licensing hours. Several senior officers said they felt supporters would create fewer problems if they were allowed to drink at a "relatively sane".

Police take the view that problems will come from organised gangs, or 'crews', bent on trouble, rather than drunken fans. Malcolm George, a Greater Manchester assistant chief constable, who will take charge of a national co-ordinating centre at Scotland Yard during Euro 96, says the

police will respond quickly at the first hint of trouble. "We have a very positive strategy to grip it immediately and prevent it from escalating."

As part of a policing strategy costing £5 million, public order units, equipped with full riot gear, will be based in the host cities. Extensive preparation has been undertaken by the National Criminal Intelligence Service's football unit, which has over 5,000 people on a hoologan data base. It believes that between 350 to 400 men are responsible for organising the setpiece battles at football grounds.

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Hard to Beat

VACANCY!
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QUOMODO
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TUAS SIC
VIDERI?

When the monks who lived at Bury St. Edmunds abbey in the 13th century were allowed to speak (which wasn't very often), Latin was the holy order of the day. Indeed, for a young novice entering the monastery, it was a sine qua non. Fortunately, he would have found it far easier to get his tongue round the eight pints of the Abbot's Ale he was allowed in the evening. The ale was brewed in the monastery with natural spring water drawn from its own well. Today we're still drawing water from the same source for our own Abbot Ale. And while most other beers are fermented for just three or four days, Abbot is fermented slowly for a full seven ('Blessed by the Sabbath') to give it a rich, deep flavour. Many have declared it to be one of the finest real ales around. And even, on occasions, the ne plus ultra.

ABBOT ALE
FROM GREENE KING

Tudjman may be barred from Council of Europe EU moves to shut door on Croatia

John Palmer in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union governments are considering an unprecedented last-minute move to block Croatian membership of the Council of Europe in protest at President Franjo Tudjman's crackdown on the independent media and his refusal to recognise elections for Zagreb city council.

man has repeatedly refused to recognise his attempts to form an administration and appoint a mayor in the capital. He has been accused of dictatorial measures against a handful of independent newspapers and broadcasting stations.

"As far as press freedom and democratic rights are concerned, is the situation any better in Croatia than in Serbia?"

Aznar takes axe to public spending in EMU drive

Spain is joining the ranks of European governments planning heavy budget cuts, writes Adela Gooch in Madrid

SPAIN'S new conservative government began to slash public spending yesterday, making 206 billion pesetas (£1.06 billion) worth of cuts and a 30 per cent reduction in senior civil service jobs, as part of its effort to qualify as a founding member of the European Union's planned single currency.

wings," said Antonio Gutiérrez, leader of the Workers' Commissions.

Nevertheless, when the outgoing Socialist government tried to close down loss-making shipyards last year workers took to the streets, clashed with police and obtained a stay of execution.



Going down a storm... Visitors take in the odd sight of part of a giant £550 million flood protection construction at New Waterway in the Netherlands. When finished next year and placed in the water, it should protect the people of Rotterdam from storm surges

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARTHUR BASTENSE

Chirac in Bonn to calm Kohl

Ian Traynor in Berlin

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac of France arrived in Bonn last night hoping to persuade Chancellor Helmut Kohl that Germany has nothing to fear from his overhaul of the French military.

French raids hit Algerian terrorist network

Paul Webster in Paris

POLICE rounded up 46 Algerians in the Paris region and Marseille yesterday, breaking up an alleged logistical support group channelling forged identity documents to Algerian Islamic extremists.



Charles Dickens, a quote from "David Copperfield"

"Annual Income Twenty pounds, Annual expenditure nineteen nineteen and six, result happiness"



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World news in brief

Armani fined in trial deal

A COURT fined the leading designer Giorgio Armani yesterday and gave him a nine-month suspended sentence in a plea bargain at his bribery trial.

Russians resume shelling of Chechen village

RUSSIANS attacked the Chechen town of Urus Martan with mortar and tank fire overnight, the deputy head of the town's administration, Magomet Gaisultanov, said yesterday.

China escapes US sanctions

The United States announced yesterday that it would not impose sanctions on China for allegedly selling nuclear weapons-related technology to Pakistan, after China agreed not to make such sales in the future.

Fate uncertain

The fate of thousands of Liberian refugees was uncertain yesterday after the Ivory Coast forced their freighter back to sea, despite fears that it is not seaworthy. It claims 2,000 guerrillas are on board. — Reuters.

Crash kills five

Five people were killed when a military helicopter crashed near the jungle hideout of

Nomads on move

Thousands of nomads and tens of thousands of cattle were being moved to neighbouring areas after their pastures on the Mongolian steppes were devastated by four weeks of fires, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Hizbullah blast

A soldier in the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army was killed yesterday by a roadside bomb, security sources said. Hizbullah claimed responsibility. — Reuters.

Swans perish

The worst snowstorm in China's northwestern Xinjiang region in 50 years has killed 469 swans. Only gifts of quilts provided to the birds by locals prevented more deaths, Xinhua news agency said yesterday. — Reuters.

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Wily... Roof de... good s... £11... £6... P&O... 0990 98... £13... Aer Ling... 0181 56...

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Beverley

2.55 Poly My Day 2.55 Miss Offert 2.55 Pride of Penzance

Colony Good to Firm... 2.25 KIPUDOCOTE BELLING STAKES 3YO 1m of £2,875

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-06 ALPHONSO PRINCE, 1.05-07 CHELSEA, 1.05-08 CRYSTAL FAST, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Poly My Day, Miss Offert, Pride of Penzance

2.55 NYPAQ HANDICAP 3YO 1m of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-02 TOO MASTY, 1.05-03 KENNEDY, 1.05-04 SILVERMOUNT, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Too Masty, Kennedy, Silvermount

3.25 NICHOLAS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH SPINAK 1m of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 NICHOLAS ROYALS, 1.05-02 NICHOLAS ROYALS, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Nicholas Royals, North South Spinak

3.55 500 YARD HAYWARD MEMORIAL HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,500

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 FRENCH FLY, 1.05-02 HOPPER STREET, 1.05-03 BOYAL EXPRESSION, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: French Fly, Hopper Street, Boyal Expression

4.25 YORKSHIRE-THE TREE TELEVISION STAKES 3YO 5f of £2,743

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 LADY OF THE TREE, 1.05-02 LADY OF THE TREE, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Lady of the Tree, Yorkshire Television Stakes

4.55 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WILLIAM HILL, 1.05-02 WILLIAM HILL, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: William Hill, Yorkshire Television Stakes

5.40 SECRETARY OF STATE 7.10 Tipping The Line

6.10 Indian Run 7.40 American Flag

6.40 The Excelsior 8.40 Yellow Lure

6.40 WINTER HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WINTER, 1.05-02 WINTER, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Winter, Yorkshire Television Stakes

7.10 CHARLEWORTH NEW HORSE HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 CHARLEWORTH, 1.05-02 CHARLEWORTH, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Charleworth, Yorkshire Television Stakes

7.40 M. J. THRES & SON LTD WINDOW CLEANERS HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 M. J. THRES, 1.05-02 M. J. THRES, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: M. J. Thres, Yorkshire Television Stakes

8.10 SHARON'S BIRD HUNTER CHASE (Amateur) 12.15 £1,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 SHARON'S BIRD, 1.05-02 SHARON'S BIRD, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Sharon's Bird Hunter Chase

8.40 WOODS OUT STANDARD HILL PLAT RACE 3YO 5f of £2,700

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WOODS OUT, 1.05-02 WOODS OUT, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Woods Out, Yorkshire Television Stakes

Racing

Heron Island can keep Manton in Derby picture

SLIP ANCHOR, in 1985, and Kalyasi three years later won the Triplemint Derby Trial at Lingfield on their way to victory in the real thing at Epsom. It is unlikely we shall see a repeat from any of the four Classic entries in the race today, but success for Heron Island would provide his trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam with further encouragement for the stable's number one Derby hope, Nash House, who runs at York next week. Chapple-Hyam has made no secret of the fact that Nash House figures some way ahead of Heron Island on the Manton gallops. But there is room for improvement from the colt based on his form in public so far, and he can prove the point today. Though he only got home narrowly from Story Line in a muddling three-runner affair at Salisbury last time, Heron Island should be a different proposition over this longer trip and with the likelihood of a faster pace. By Shirley Heights out of a dam who is a half-sister to the French Derby winner Dan-

shaan, Heron Island (3.45) is certainly not bred for speed and in the circumstances he did well to finish sixth behind Storm Trooper at Newmarket on his reappearance. That is solid form compared with Dovyah, who is stepping up from maiden company. Henry Cecil's colt is not in the Derby, but he is certain to improve and might be more of a threat than Dismissed, who may struggle to get the trip, or Mystic Knight, who looked rather one-paced behind the Chapple-Hyam-trained High Baroque at Newbury. Cecil can win the Champagne Runtart Oaks Trial for the third time in the past 10 years with Lady Carla (4.15). Impressive winner of her only start late last year, this Cearleon filly does not appear to have much to beat with today's only other Oaks entry, Moody's Cat, having run modestly in Italy last time. The Classic scene shifts to France tomorrow, where there is a strong British challenge in the French 2,000 Guineas, headed by Danehill Dancer. Almost certainly racing on slower ground when only sixth behind Mark Of Esteem on the heavily-watered Rowley Mile last week, he should be better suited by this turning track. Don Michelotto represents

Packer plans to privatise Oz

AUSTRALIAN racing could be split by a plan by Kerry Packer, the media tycoon, to set up a private horseracing circuit aimed at creating off a take from the lucrative betting market in Asia. The plan involves privately-built racecourses, satellite broadcasts into Asia and international betting. The scheme would operate in direct competition with Australian's existing horse racing establishment. Already there are signs that Packer's plans would divide the sport as each side battles for control and access to the best horses, riders and jockeys. There are too many barriers for such a scheme to operate in Britain, principally the legislation allowing off-course bookmakers.

Lingfield with form for the Jackpot races

FORM GUIDE - 1.05-01 NASH HOUSE (3.45) is the best of the three, but he is not in the Derby picture. He is a half-sister to the French Derby winner Dan-shaan, Heron Island (3.45) is certainly not bred for speed and in the circumstances he did well to finish sixth behind Storm Trooper at Newmarket on his reappearance. That is solid form compared with Dovyah, who is stepping up from maiden company. Henry Cecil's colt is not in the Derby, but he is certain to improve and might be more of a threat than Dismissed, who may struggle to get the trip, or Mystic Knight, who looked rather one-paced behind the Chapple-Hyam-trained High Baroque at Newbury. Cecil can win the Champagne Runtart Oaks Trial for the third time in the past 10 years with Lady Carla (4.15). Impressive winner of her only start late last year, this Cearleon filly does not appear to have much to beat with today's only other Oaks entry, Moody's Cat, having run modestly in Italy last time. The Classic scene shifts to France tomorrow, where there is a strong British challenge in the French 2,000 Guineas, headed by Danehill Dancer. Almost certainly racing on slower ground when only sixth behind Mark Of Esteem on the heavily-watered Rowley Mile last week, he should be better suited by this turning track. Don Michelotto represents

Warwick (N.H.) tonight

5.40 Secretary of State 7.10 Tipping The Line

6.10 Indian Run 7.40 American Flag

6.40 The Excelsior 8.40 Yellow Lure

6.40 WINTER HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WINTER, 1.05-02 WINTER, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Winter, Yorkshire Television Stakes

7.10 CHARLEWORTH NEW HORSE HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 CHARLEWORTH, 1.05-02 CHARLEWORTH, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Charleworth, Yorkshire Television Stakes

7.40 M. J. THRES & SON LTD WINDOW CLEANERS HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 M. J. THRES, 1.05-02 M. J. THRES, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: M. J. Thres, Yorkshire Television Stakes

8.10 SHARON'S BIRD HUNTER CHASE (Amateur) 12.15 £1,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 SHARON'S BIRD, 1.05-02 SHARON'S BIRD, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Sharon's Bird Hunter Chase

8.40 WOODS OUT STANDARD HILL PLAT RACE 3YO 5f of £2,700

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WOODS OUT, 1.05-02 WOODS OUT, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Woods Out, Yorkshire Television Stakes

Bath runners and riders

3.10 River Showers 3.40 Thier Omelette

3.40 Preshalder 4.10 Commover

3.10 RAGS (pup) 4.40 Sardine Hill Boy (boy)

Colony Good to Firm... 2.10 CHAMPLAIN PALM BASKET STAKES 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 CHAMPLAIN, 1.05-02 CHAMPLAIN, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Champlain, Yorkshire Television Stakes

2.40 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 TATTERSALLS, 1.05-02 TATTERSALLS, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Tattersalls, Yorkshire Television Stakes

3.10 MISS KELLY'S MAIDEN BIRTHDAY HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 MISS KELLY'S, 1.05-02 MISS KELLY'S, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Miss Kelly's, Yorkshire Television Stakes

5.15 A APPRENTICES HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 APPRENTICES, 1.05-02 APPRENTICES, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Apprentices, Yorkshire Television Stakes

3.40 ROYAL HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 ROYAL, 1.05-02 ROYAL, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Royal, Yorkshire Television Stakes

4.10 SOMERSET CONDITIONS STAKES 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 SOMERSET, 1.05-02 SOMERSET, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Somerset, Yorkshire Television Stakes

4.40 BATHSTOCK HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 BATHSTOCK, 1.05-02 BATHSTOCK, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Bathstock, Yorkshire Television Stakes

Worcester (N.H.)

11.45 Chelmsford 1.10 Phoenix Dredging

12.10 Phoenix Boy 1.40 Phoenix Point

12.45 Pilsenwood Pilsen 2.30 Leicester's Hill

2.50 Blue Martin

Colony Good to Firm... 11.45 WOODS OUT STANDARD HILL PLAT RACE 3YO 5f of £2,700

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 WOODS OUT, 1.05-02 WOODS OUT, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Woods Out, Yorkshire Television Stakes

12.15 DURACELL BOVINE CHASE 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 DURACELL, 1.05-02 DURACELL, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Duracell, Yorkshire Television Stakes

12.45 BOURNEBURY BETTING BOVINE CHASE 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 BOURNEBURY, 1.05-02 BOURNEBURY, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Bournebury, Yorkshire Television Stakes

1.15 MAX ULTRA RACEWAY HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 MAX ULTRA, 1.05-02 MAX ULTRA, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Max Ultra, Yorkshire Television Stakes

1.45 LEONARD BACHE HANDICAP 3YO 5f of £2,444

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 LEONARD BACHE, 1.05-02 LEONARD BACHE, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Leonard Bache, Yorkshire Television Stakes

2.20 BOURNEBURY APPOINTMENT DISTRIBUTORS BOVINE CHASE 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 BOURNEBURY, 1.05-02 BOURNEBURY, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Bournebury, Yorkshire Television Stakes

2.50 APOLLO BOVINE CHASE 3YO 5f of £2,000

Table with 3 columns: Race No., Horse Name, and Jockey. Races include 1.05-01 APOLLO, 1.05-02 APOLLO, etc.

TOP FURN TIPS: Apollo, Yorkshire Television Stakes

7.00 Chelmsford 7.30 Sweet Supporter

8.00 Showstar 8.30 Young Marston

7.00 Chelmsford 7.30 Sweet Supporter

8.00 Showstar 8.30 Young Marston

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8.00 Showstar 8.30 Young Marston

7.00 Chelmsford 7.30 Sweet Supporter

8.00 Showstar 8.30 Young Marston

Top of the House NASH HOUSE heads Ladbrokes's betting for next Wednesday's Dante Stakes at York. They quote him 15-8 favourite, then go 3-1 Dushyantor, 9-2 Storm Trooper and Glory Of Danvers. 6-1 Shaanmit, 6-1 Astor Place, 14-1 Shaanmit Knight and Double Leaf, 16-1 Jack Jennings.

Longchamp tomorrow 3.35 Dual Pools d'Essai des Pouliches (1,000 Oubolons) Group 1 3YO fillies to £131,732

BBC2 4.05 Dual Pools d'Essai des Pouliches (2,000 Oubolons) Group 1 3YO fillies to £131,732

Wolverhampton AW tonight 7.00 Chelmsford 7.30 Sweet Supporter 8.00 Showstar 8.30 Young Marston

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00930 168+ COMMENTARY RACING LINE

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00930 168+ COMMENTARY RACING LINE

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Rugby Union

WRU gets tough with club rebels

David Plummer

WALES'S 12 First Division clubs will have a showdown meeting with the Welsh Rugby Union in Cardiff this morning after receiving an ultimatum to agree to play in officially organised competitions next season or face expulsion.

Heineken League: Pontypridd 27, Cardiff 27

Cardiff salvage draw to stay in pole position

Robert Armstrong

PONTYPRIDD injected fresh uncertainty into the three-horse race for the Heineken League title last night by forcing a draw with Cardiff at Sardis Road that earned each side a point.

up after a threatened mutiny. The players objected to the wide differentials - some would have earned £30,000, others would have banked only £12,000, while those based in England would have received only a match fee - and all of them refused to sign.

for the Cardiff full-back Mike Rayer and Pontypridd's scrum-half Paul John. The uncapped players are the centres John Funnell and Dafydd James, the locks Mike Voyle and Steve Ford and the flanker Kingsley Jones.



Teen triumph... 15-year-old Martina Hingis sweeps to victory in Rome BRUNO MOSCONI

Tennis

Young Martina tramples Graf's feet of clay

Stephen Bierley in Rome

WOMEN'S tennis is yearning for two things this summer. One is the return to fitness of Monica Seles; the second is the breakthrough of one of the younger players.

day's defeat was hardly the ideal preparation for the French Open this month. And yet when she took the first set there seemed no reason to suppose her form was about to crumble so dramatically, even though it was obvious she could not take liberties. One under-hit smash was swept disdainfully past her by Hingis.

Sport in brief

Boxing

Scott Welch, the British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion from Brighton, will fight the EBU champion Zeljko Mavrovic, an English-trained Croatian based in Germany, for the European title on the Prince Naseem Hamed bill at Newcastle Arena on June 8.

Basketball

The Helms Royals, who finished last in the Budweiser League, have signed a 6ft 10in Anglo-Nigerian centre, Emeka Nwankwo, and resigned the Americans Allen Koochof and Ray Schultz.

Equestrianism

Emma-Jane Mac on Gringo joined the only two unpenalised rounds to keep the Royal Windsor Women's Championship yesterday and achieve her third victory in nine years, each time on a different horse, writes John Roff of Windsor. She was run close by Lisa Murphy on The Way

Hockey

Two corner goals from Teddington's Philip McGuire availed Britain the chance to recover some credibility at

Soccer

Juventus and Torino have decided to play on in Turin, if only for another season, writes John Hooper in Rome. The clubs had threatened to become the first leading European sides to abandon their city of origin as a way of

Motor Rallying

Colin McRae, the world champion from Scotland, made full use of his skill and survival instincts on a treacherous opening day of the Indonesia Rally. McRae drove cautiously on roads made slippery by heavy rain to take the lead in his Subaru Impreza five seconds ahead of his Finnish title rival Tommi Makinen in a Mitsubishi.

Results

Soccer

FOOTBALL LEAGUES Second Division: Bradford 0, Preston 0; Luton 0, Hull 2; Third Division: Shrewsbury 5, Bury 0.

Rugby Union

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Pontypridd 27, Cardiff 27.

Rugby League

GUINNESS CUP: St George, Manly 1-0.

Golf

SPANISH OPEN (Madrid): Second round: 18 holes, 72 par, 18 holes, 72 par.

Tennis

GERMAN OPEN (Hamburg): Quarter-finals: 1st round, 1st set, 6-4, 2nd set, 6-4.

Baseball

NATIONALS St Louis 16, San Francisco 8.

Basketball

WESTERN CONFERENCE: Los Angeles 87, San Antonio 84.

Equestrianism

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW: All-around 1st, 1st place, 1st place.

Hockey

ASIAN HOCKEY CUP (Iqoh, Malaysia): Australia 3, India 3, Malaysia 1, South Korea 0.

Results

Motor Sport

INDONESIA RALLY (Medan): First round: 1st place, 1st place.

Racing

CARLISLE: 2.10s, 1.20s, 1.10s, 1.10s.

Baseball

NATIONALS St Louis 16, San Francisco 8.

Basketball

WESTERN CONFERENCE: Los Angeles 87, San Antonio 84.

Equestrianism

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW: All-around 1st, 1st place, 1st place.

Hockey

ASIAN HOCKEY CUP (Iqoh, Malaysia): Australia 3, India 3, Malaysia 1, South Korea 0.

Results

Market Rase

1.10s, 1.10s, 1.10s, 1.10s.

Real Tennis

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Weekend fixtures

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Rugby League

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Rugby Union

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Soccer

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Basketball

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Equestrianism

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Hockey

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Motor Rallying

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Tennis

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Baseball

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Basketball

1st place, 1st place, 1st place.

Equestrianism

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Weekend fixtures

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Tennis

FA CUP FINAL

He rants uncontrollably and winds up defenders but Alex Ferguson believes this has been his best season. Michael Walker meets United's goalkeeper

Schmeichel the screaming saviour

KICKING and Screaming may have been the title for the documentary series about the history of English football broadcast this season but it could just as easily apply to a book or film about Peter Schmeichel. But perhaps "Saving and Screaming" would be more appropriate. Or, better still, "Saving Screammers and then Yelling About It".

That would encapsulate the image the public has of Schmeichel. Away from Old Trafford it is fair to say the Manchester United goalkeeper is one of the least popular at Premiership grounds. His seemingly uncontrollable ranting at defenders winds up more than just those in front of him, although the fact that he is so frighteningly good plays its part too.

And, as Alex Ferguson said this week, Schmeichel is good when it counts. "He's produced his saves at important times, at 0-0 and 1-0. Even at Bolton when we won 3-0 he made two important saves before we scored. You can make saves at 4-0 up and it doesn't matter a dicky bird but when you do it with no goals on the board that means something."

"In my mind this is his best ever season. He's been absolutely outstanding."

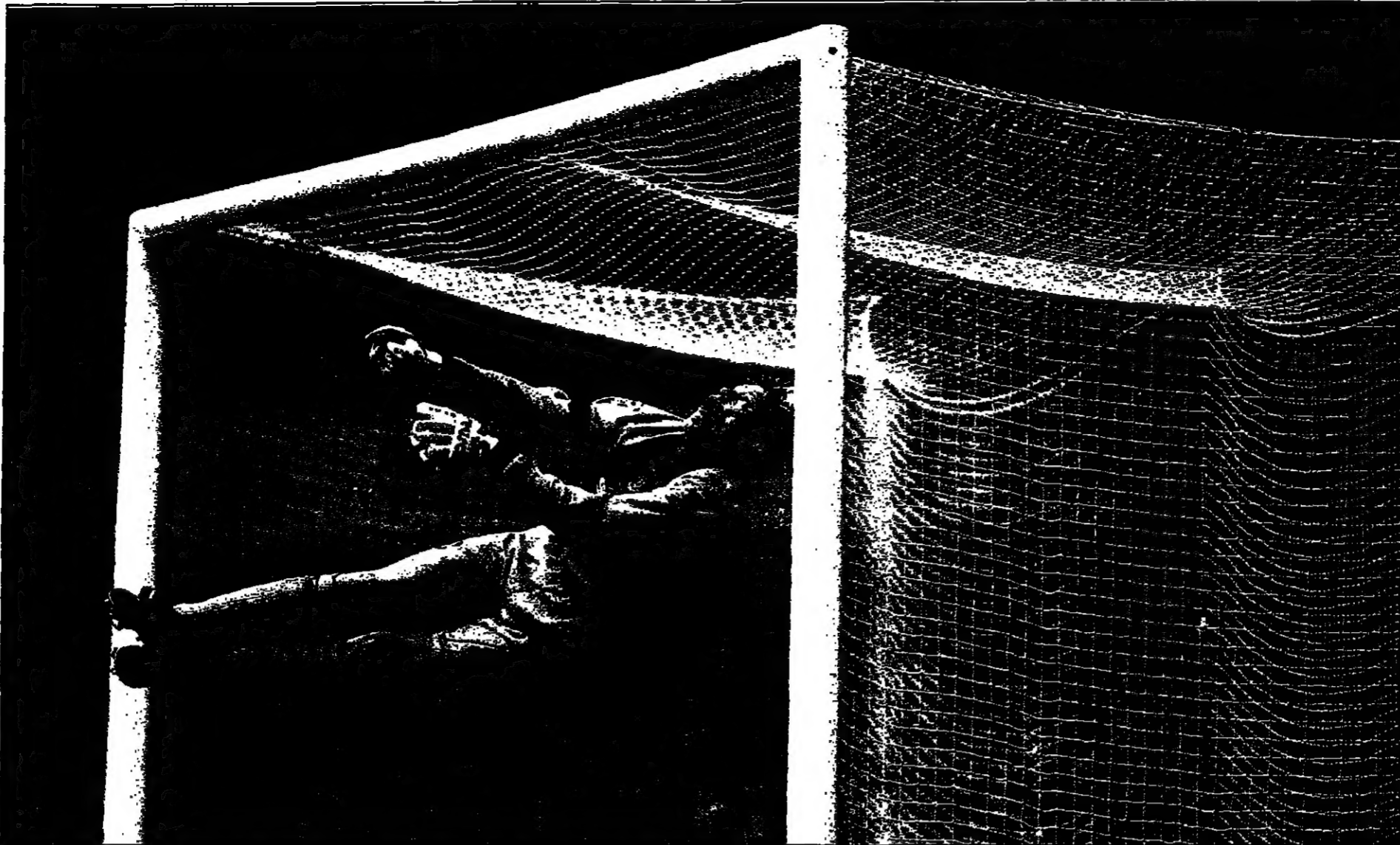
That tribute compares to Brian Clough's assertion that Peter Shilton was worth 30 points a season to Nottingham Forest when there were only two points for a win.

As Ferguson said, Schmeichel's interventions have come at vital times with turning points in games snowballing into pivotal moments in the season.

Les Ferdinand clean through at Old Trafford with the score 1-0; Schmeichel saves. Sasa Curcic's shot at Bolton at 0-0; Schmeichel saves. Chris Armstrong, one-on-one with no score at Old Trafford in March; Schmeichel saves. And most significantly, Ferdinand put through by Asprilla at St James' Park; Schmeichel saves.

It was 0-0. United went on to win with the only goal courtesy of Eric Cantona but people will identify Schmeichel's stops as critical in deciding the championship.

The giant Dane concurs in his curiously Molby-meets-



All holes barred... Schmeichel's stops became pivotal moments in the season as United finally won the battle with Newcastle for the Premiership title. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Merseyside accent. "I think that game was a turning point. We played extremely poorly in the first 15 minutes and gave them chances."

"But after that we really outplayed them. We might not have played a fancy game, we just kept the ball, passed it around, let them get frustrated. And then we got the chance. Newcastle would have had two games in hand and a 12-point lead. Instead it was down to six."

As Newcastle went in to a run United got into the groove and while the contribution of "the young ones" was high-

lighted Schmeichel thinks it was the old heads who brought home the trophy. "At times the more experienced players in the squad have had to play out of their skins to win 1-0 games. We have had a lot of young players so I think the experienced players have done tremendously well."

"The young players have been ever so good, shown a great appetite. I'd like to be 25 because these guys are going to win everything if they stay together." Even the European Cup? "In time, yeah. Last year you must have asked 'can they win the champion-

ship?' The answer was 'probably'. So you never know."

At 33, Schmeichel has a few years left, but attributes his impressive season to the fact that "basically I've had more to do" rather than an improvement in his game. He does, however, use the word "mature" to describe himself now, "you get older and you change your attitude. When I was young I was only thinking of me. Today I don't care about personal honours, it's what we can achieve as a team. If I wanted personal honours I should have been a 100-metre runner."

How does this maturity account for the apparent goal rage he displays on the field? "If I wasn't like that I wouldn't be able to play because that's my way of concentrating. You should see Pally and Bruce's faces, they're worse. For them and for me, it's just an expression that we're in the game."

But Schmeichel insists that this afternoon he will be relaxed and enjoy himself. "That's the thing about this team, even the young players all seem so relaxed before the game. You wouldn't believe the atmosphere if you could

look into the dressing room. It's just very laid back. And running up to the final, you get your suit, you get your picture taken, it's a brilliant three days."

However, there is one man in particular who could spoil his day - Robbie Fowler. The young striker has scored four times against United this season.

Mention of the name produced a flutter from the Dana. With one of his huge paws he motioned towards the Old Trafford pitch: "The goal that I let in here high at the near post, that was bad goalkeep-

ing. I thought he was going to cross the ball. Fowler did well there but he's not going to do that again."

"He's a good striker but this country has a lot of good strikers. Denmark are going to the European Championships with three strikers maybe, England have about 20. Every team has a good striker, it's like a trade mark for the Premiership."

Schmeichel has his own trade marks. The charging, starfish lunge; the "it's not my fault" screaming; and, increasingly, those turning points.

Twist given to Eric's tale

Martha Thorpe

THE first time Eric Cantona speaks publicly all season, and he is misquoted. Mon Genins must be wondering why he broke his silence in the first place. After picking up his soccer writers' Footballer of the Year award at a dinner on Thursday night, Cantona gave a little speech. It became a big story. At least in one hard-of-hearing national newspaper.

Eric Cantona launched an amazing attack on his critics last night by branding them "toiletts," sang their back-page lead. It then quoted the Frenchman as saying: "Some criticism means nothing, so I compare some of them to toilets. But others are worth listening to and I have tried to do better."

To ram home their outrage the paper accompanied that story with a full-page article inside headlined: "Eric's Gone Mad Again."

Let's note what Eric actually told the 750-strong audience was: "Some criticism means nothing, so I throw them where they deserve to be - toilets. Some others are something, so I try to use them to become better."

It is a safe bet there will have been an extra flush of the Cantona loo yesterday.

Hundreds of Manchester United and Liverpool fans could discover that their Cup final tickets are stolen or forged - and end up arrested. Officials are on alert following a recent break-in at Old Trafford and the theft of more tickets in the Liverpool area.

The Wembley stadium director Paul Sergeant said that many fans run the risk of being ejected from the stadium if they attempt to use the stolen tickets.

"Every FA Cup final ticket is recorded," he says. "We know exactly which tickets were stolen and anyone coming in with one of those will be stopped and probably arrested. There is also the danger of forged tickets, which again are easy for us to spot."

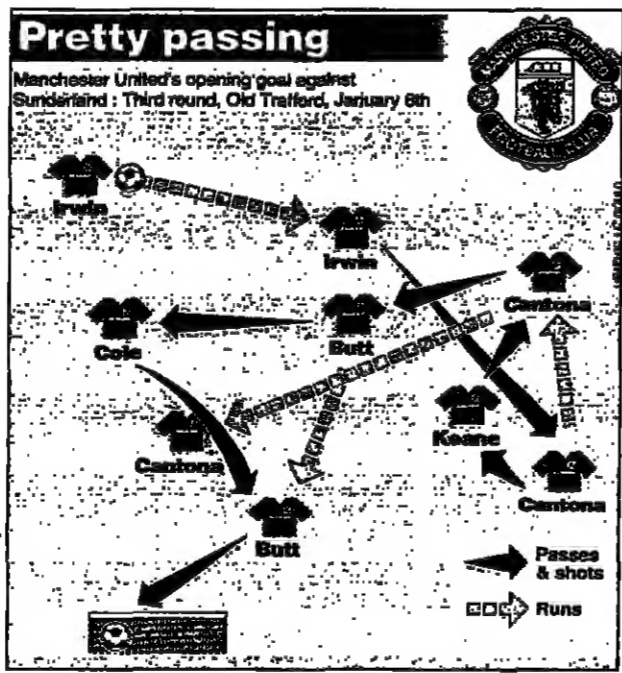
THE SCORING HABIT: Two crucial goals on the road to Wembley

David Lacey



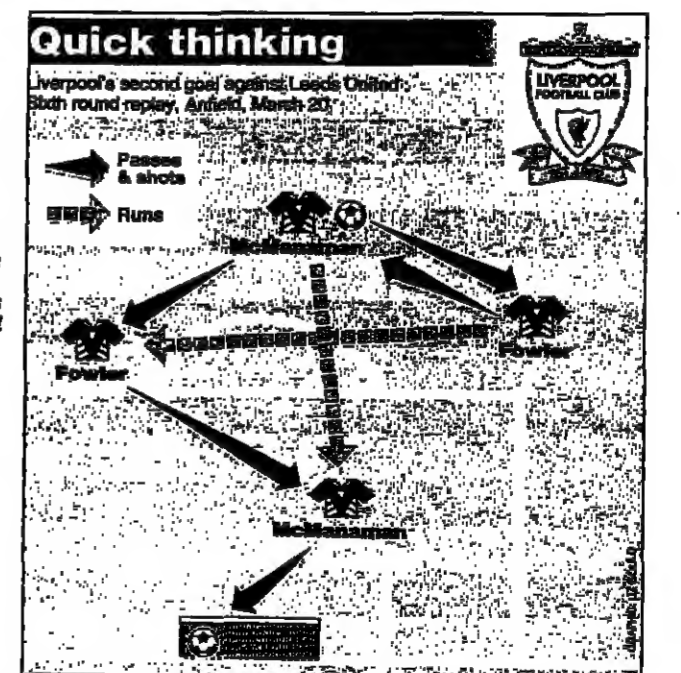
Cantona... astute

Manchester Utd v Sunderland
Third round
Old Trafford, Jan 6
Manchester United's opening goal epitomised the excellence of their passing and movement as well as Cantona's astute footballing brain. Having taken a ball from Irwin, the Frenchman exchanges passes with Keane, squares to Butt and sets off on a run across the penalty area, taking defenders with him. Butt, meanwhile, lays the ball off to Cole and runs beyond the defence before meeting Cole's lobbed return pass with a first-time shot into the net.



Fowler... draws defenders

Liverpool v Leeds United
Sixth-round replay
Anfield, March 20
This goal proved that there is more to Robbie Fowler's game than just scoring goals. With the defence holding off, Fowler to his left, McManaman passes as he approaches the penalty area. A pass to Fowler draws two defenders on to the striker, but instead of turning for goal Fowler slips the ball back to McManaman and runs square for another return. By now the defence is completely flummoxed. McManaman finds Fowler once more, then sprints through a yawning gap to meet Fowler's second pass and score.



Keane and Butt the men to disrupt Liverpool's stride

David Lacey
MATCH a counter-puncher against a combination of a virtually guaranteed win, as much as the quality of the individual talent on show, is why many believe that today's Cup final will remain longer in the memory than most.
Yet it will surely be in Manchester United's interest, especially early in the game, to deny Liverpool opportunities to use the full range of their ringcraft. And this can only be achieved if United set up a series of midfield clinches.
So while Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs may eventually upstage Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, the most important players for Manchester United at the outset will be Roy Keane and Nicky Butt, the men most likely to deny Liverpool the measured tempo at which they will set out to play the game.
United's last two finals have not seen Alex Ferguson's team at their best. Chelsea were the better side before the interval in 1994 and while Giggs began to get going after half-time it took two penalties from Cantona to break the resistance of Glenn Hoddle's team.
At Wembley last season, minus Cantona and with

Giggs used only in the second half, United failed to respond to the inspiration Anders Limpar had given Everton and lost to Paul Rideout's 30th-minute goal. Today they could do worse than emulate the tenacity with which Joe Parkinson and Barry Horne steadily eroded the influence of Keane and Paul Ince.
Ferguson could start with the team that won the Premiership at Middlesbrough on Sunday, which would mean David May preferred to Steve Bruce at centre-back and Andy Cole again on the bench. But while May looks certain to keep his place Cole's instant goal at Riverside, after replacing Paul Scholes early in the second half, may see him back on the field at the start today.
Roy Evans's Liverpool team has virtually picked itself. He really only had to decide between Babb and Neil Ruddock for the third place at the back.
Both defences are strong but not invulnerable, and neither can fully provide for what Fowler or Giggs might do next. What McManaman can achieve with a run Cantona can equal with a glance. Both teams have scoring potential in midfield. But Manchester United have the better goalkeeper which could, in the end, prove decisive.
A N Other (page 19): Stuart Pearson (Hull City, Manchester United, West Ham).

Manchester United
PETER SCHMEICHEL
Probably the best goalkeeper in the world, despite a recent lapse with Denmark. Schmeichel has underwritten United's success under Alex Ferguson and Liverpool must get in close to beat him unless Fowler, Collymore, McManaman, Barnes or Redknapp can produce an inspired long shot.
Marks: 10; 9
DENIS IRWIN
Generally acknowledged to be the best full-back in the Premier League, Irwin has proved his versatility by switching from left to right in United's back four to accommodate Phil Neville. He will be responsible for keeping tabs on McManaman.
Marks: 8
DAVID MAY
May's future at Old Trafford looked uncertain when Ferguson, having bought him as centre-back cover for Bruce, started playing him at right-back. But during the run-in to United's latest title he has proved his original worth several times over.
Marks: 7
GARY PALLISTER
Pallister's recent return after a spell out with sciatica has restored the strength in the air that numerous permutations of the other centre-backs could not replace. Liverpool will hope that Collymore, Fowler and McMan-

man are able to exploit any rustiness on the ground.
Marks: 7
PHIL NEVILLE
Potentially the younger Neville brother is the nearest thing England have got to a Christian Ziege, the Bayern Munich wing-back. Today he will seek both to stop McAttee overlapping on the Liverpool right while exploiting any space behind him that the three-man defence has not covered.
Marks: 8
DAVID BECKHAM
The best of Beckham is yet to come but already, creatively, he looks the most gifted of United's latest crop. He has skill in abundance, and the composure to go with it and should prove a handful for Jones on the right.
Marks: 8
NICKY BUTT
Butt's midfield partnership with Roy Keane has matured steadily as the season has progressed. He has a spiky temperament but is lamblike compared to Keane and Paul Ince. More importantly he has both a quick eye for the penetrating pass.
Marks: 8
ROY KEANE
It is important for United that Keane curbs a tendency to get booked for rash tackles early on, because he is the player most likely to deny Liverpool their

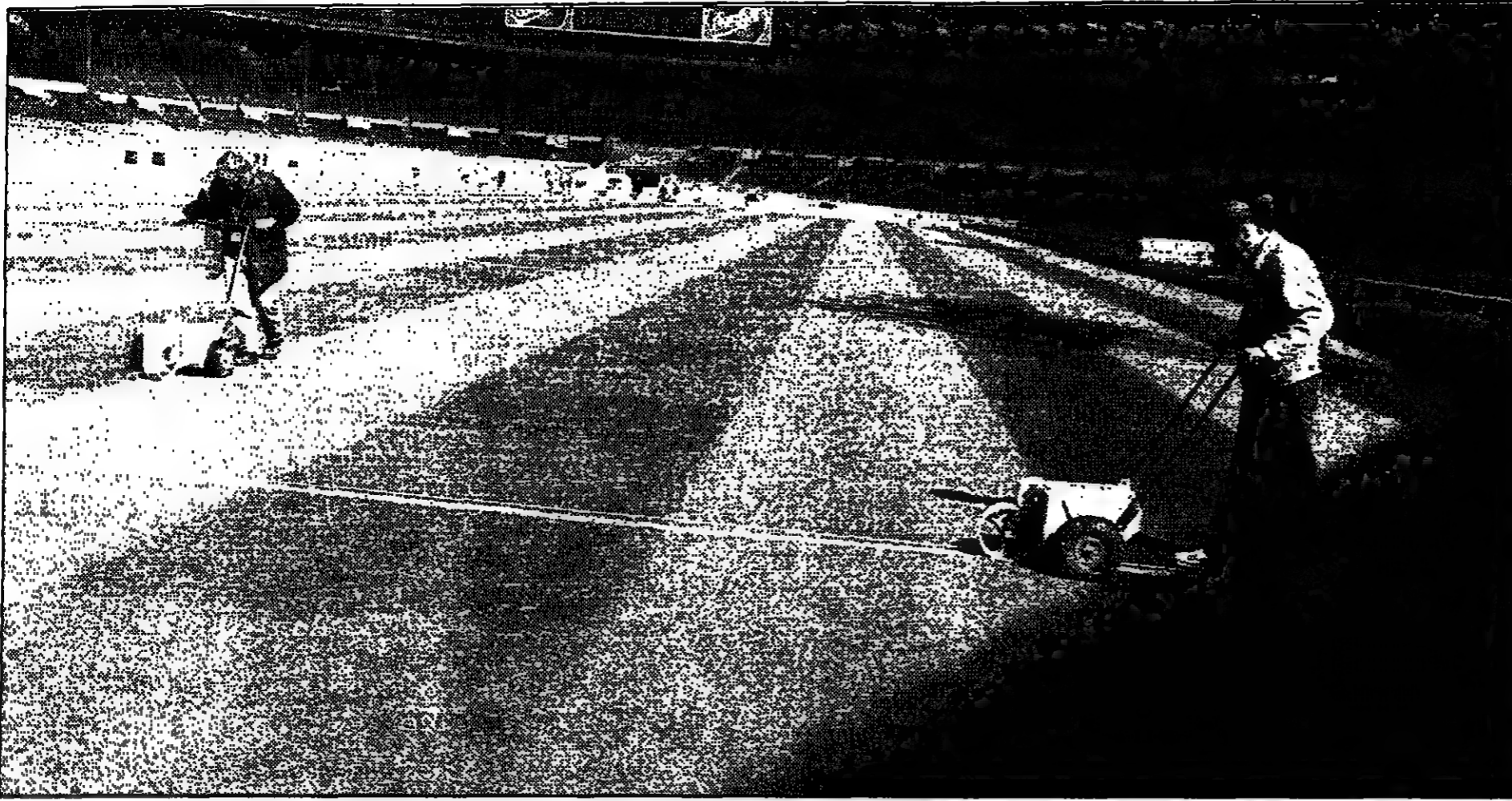
Liverpool
DAVID JAMES
Liverpool's most improved player this season, James has cut out the blind dashes beyond the near post that cost several goals. He still fails to hold the odd ground shot, which would be costly today, but he has always been a good shot-stopper and if he has a good final United will find it hard to score.
Marks: 10; 8
JOHN SCALES
The unsung hero of Liverpool's three-man defence, Scales' pace and sensible approach have been consistent qualities at the back all season. He will be the man to pick up Cantona on Liverpool's radar and stop the Frenchman doing damage where it hurts.
Marks: 8
MARK WRIGHT
The season's most remarkable comeback. No longer an accident waiting to happen, Wright's career has revived on the wrong side of the 30 principally because his sweeper's tendencies are ideally suited to the way Roy Evans's side wants to play it at the back.
Marks: 7
PHIL BABB
Roy Evans will have thought hard before preferring Babb to Neil Ruddock. Maybe the threat of Andy Cole's extra pace helped him decide. Babb is a competent centre-back but has

not always looked comfortable in this system. He will be happier for Rob Jones's presence on the left.
Marks: 7
JASON McATEER
The final, crucial piece in Liverpool's conversion to a three-man defence with five in midfield. McAttee has steadily improved after a gauche start. Now he is as crucial an attacking force on the Liverpool right as is Phil Neville on United's left. Today, however, he has to keep Giggs in check.
Marks: 8
JAMIE REDKNAPP
A strained hamstring interrupted Redknapp's outstanding season just when he was settling into England's midfield. He has yet to recover that level of form.
Marks: 8
JOHN BARNES
A dozen years have passed Barnes was playing for Watford against Everton in an FA Cup final. His role today will be rather different to what it was then, though equally important. Barnes is there to hold the ball and give Liverpool pause for thought. And he can still take a useful free-kick.
Marks: 7
ROB JONES
The success of Jones's conversion from right-back to left-sided midfielder has strength-

ened an area of weakness in Liverpool's adoption of a European format. His today will be to limit Beckham's movements, keep an eye out for Giggs's switching of wings and support McManaman.
Marks: 8
STEVE McMANAMAN
The player most likely to precipitate a Liverpool victory today, McManaman's ability to take the ball past defenders on angled runs will offer the biggest initial threat to United, who will not have forgotten his goals against Bolton in last season's Coca-Cola final.
Marks: 9
STAN COLLYMORE
His metamorphosis from out-and-out striker to Robbie Fowler's most natural foil will give United problems in deciding who tracks Collymore down when he goes deep. There is also the small problem of his penchant for shooting on sight from long range. Even Schmeichel may be surprised.
Marks: 8
ROBBIE FOWLER
Fowler could win the Cup for Anfield with an inspired moment or two near goal. His nerveless approach and his natural scorer's instincts make him the player most likely to deny Old Trafford another Double.
Marks: 9
TOTAL: 87

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SportsGuardian



Cue the action ... Wembley's alternative linesmen mark out the pitch for today's final when Manchester United will attempt to win their second Double in three years

United in search of the final triumph

David Lacey on today's Cup final, which should provide a fitting end to the season

ENGLISH football has earned itself a bonus this season that Wembley and a global television audience will hope to share today. Liverpool and Manchester United, who with Newcastle have done so much to produce the most entertaining championship in years, meet in an FA Cup final that promises to provide a glorious coda.

United, only the third club this century to appear in three successive finals, are hoping to become the first ever to complete the Double of league and Cup twice. Liverpool are seeking their sixth Cup triumph; their manager, Roy Evans, his first.

An enthralling contest is expected, and a replay on Thursday a possibility. The teams know a lot about one another. The managers, Evans and Alex Ferguson, believe they can read other's thoughts. Evans, in fact, is an open book so far as today's Liverpool team is concerned. He announced his side yesterday afternoon, with Phil Babb preferred in defence to Neil Ruddock, leaving only the substitutes in doubt. But it will be surprising if Ian Rush

is not on the bench, hoping to make his last appearance for Liverpool in the grandest setting. Ferguson will reveal his hand only an hour before the kick-off but may well recall Andy Cole, who was recently relegated to the bench after continually missing the sort of scoring chances he was signed from Newcastle to take. The alacrity with which Cole came on at Middlesbrough early in the second half last Sunday, scoring with his first touch the goal that virtually assured United of another title, could persuade Ferguson to bring him back in place of Paul Scholes. Either that or Ferguson, a prince among foxes when it comes to pre-match mind games, is playing his usual trick of keeping the opposition guessing. If Evans's choice of Babb, often a weak link in Liverpool's three-man defence, has been influenced by a concern about Cole's pace Ferguson will have already won an important pre-final victory.

Should there be a winner this afternoon the instinct is to go with a United side that has just won the Premiership title for the third time in four seasons and, in league and Cup, has won 18 of its last 30 matches. Liverpool have twice outperformed United this season but have beaten them only once, and that shortly before Christmas at a time when Ferguson's team had hit a trough. They will try to do the same today, and in Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Steve McManaman have an impressive trio of potential match-winners. And Rush, who is likely to be on the bench, also knows a little bit about winning Cup finals.

Against that United will pit the wit of Eric Cantona and the wizardry of Ryan Giggs, which up to now Wembley has witnessed only in patches; a tantalising glimpse against Chelsea two years ago and a delayed entrance against Everton last season. Few Cup finals will have been enriched by so much young English talent. For Fowler and McManaman read David Beckham, Nicky Butt and at least one of the Neville brothers, almost certainly Phil. The year before United upset Liverpool's threefold ambitions of League, Cup and European Cup by winning the 1977 final against the odds Tommy Docherty's young team frosse against Lawrie McMenemy's old sweats from Southampton. But when they did meet Liverpool at Wembley they were all the better for that experience.

Man in the middle is no pushover



David Lacey

IT IS reasonably safe to assume that the conclusion of this afternoon's FA Cup final will not be clouded by the sort of cumulonimbus of a controversy that darkened the finish of rugby union's equivalent occasion at Twickenham a week ago.

Imagine the reaction if a disgruntled member of the losing team, Liverpool or Manchester United, appeared to push the referee to the ground as he ended the match. Footballers do silly things. They kick each other from time to time. They have even been known to kick spectators. But while they often argue with referees, instances of officials being manhandled are rare in the upper leagues, although down below, among the beer bellies and wannabes, the picture is less savoury.

Two incidents spring to mind, neither particularly violent or vicious. During the 1980-81 season Vince Hilaire of Crystal Palace pushed a referee over. Two seasons later Manchester United's Ashley Grimes was sent off at West Ham after he had swung an official round by the shoulder. Both were hauled up before the Football Association on disparate charges. Yet in no way could Hilaire or Grimes have been described as habitually undisciplined players any more than Neil Back, the Leicester flanker who could now face action from the Rugby Football Union.

est hint of a referee being challenged physically came in 1985, when Kevin Moran, Manchester United's normally amiable Irish centre-back, was sent off by Peter Willis for bringing down Everton's Peter Reid when he had a clear run at goal. Football had only just begun to deal seriously with the professional foul and until Frank Stapleton moved in quickly to intercept Moran's beeline for Willis there appeared to be more than an outside chance of the first, and so far the only, player to be sent off in a Cup final taking the law into his own hands. Probably by the throat.

As it happened, United's 10 men went on to win in extra-time with an outstanding goal from that pillar of rectitude, Norman Whiteside. Afterwards Ron Atkinson, then the United manager, said, not altogether wisely, that he had feared a violent crowd reaction if they had lost following Moran's dismissal. Of course Twickenham stayed riot-free, but no longer can the oval fraternity insist that in their code challenging a referee's decision is something a chap simply does not do. In fact, the more money the chaps stand to make out of rugby the more arguments with officials there are likely to be.

ONE thing Wembley will not see this afternoon is a final decided by a hypothetical goal. The rules of rugby allowed Lander to punish Leicester's cynical disregard of them with a penalty try, but in football a goal can only be scored when the ball crosses the line in fact, not theory. Occasionally the suggestion is made that football should follow rugby's practice and award punitive goals, rather than penalty kicks, when a foul has prevented an apparently certain goal. The trip by Arsenal's Willie Young to deny 17-year-old Paul Allen a goal for West Ham in the 1980 Cup final is often quoted to support this argument.

The way Fifa behaves these days nothing is impossible, but there is a mighty difference in assumptions between a touchdown and a shot finding the net. Opponents of such a measure need mention only two words before resting their case: one is Ronnie, the other Rosenthal.

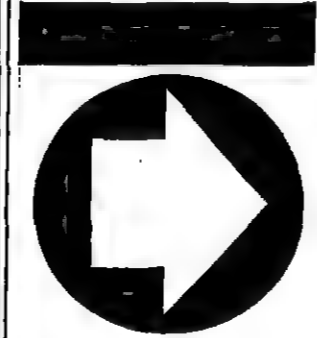
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Outside politics, he is famous for linking Terry Waite with the CIA and Robert Maxwell with Mossad while lurching the KGB at White's. Inside politics, he is noted for getting up the noses of the Whips and absenting himself from a crucial Maastricht vote — a move which earned him the nickname of The Bermuda Triangle.
Rupert Allason

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,650

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,650, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday May 20.

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- Set by Bunthorne
- 1 Hanging not quite good enough for Gilpin (5)
 - 6 Natural cover round race-riot (5)
 - 11 Might sound sheepish, this male movement of Arab reform (8)
 - 12 Episcopal dignity coming out of the woodwork (5)
 - 13 Second time condition recurrent in Beethoven's Fifth (5)
 - 14 Optimistic old soldiers have it: so does he! (6)
 - 15 Horse smuggled out of Ohio (4)
 - 16 By and large involved flashy type (5)
 - 17 Green-eyed iconoclast informed on by Boer grass (5)
 - 19 French setting out the odds all right? One couldn't say (8)
 - 21 I can't drink beer though, contrarily, port (8)
 - 25 Waterfall catching fire! (5)
 - 26 They alter the scales of international maps (5)
 - 27 Pot-head cultivating one-for-the-pot-plant genus (4)
 - 29 Royal children in trouble with the Purple (6)
 - 31 Rise which saw Kennedy's fall (5)
 - 32 Rather tasteless inscription on such a stone (5)
 - 33 Such incompatible types concur in currency division (8)

34 Jason's aide at both ends of the Mediterranean Sea (5)
35 So awan might give herself a bit of a tonic (5)

Down

- 1 Knight protecting married mum (4)
- 2 Thus an aesthete might sit in a lorry (6)
- 3 Role-swapping accepted by Arthur Daley (4-8)
- 4 Dish up Victory, but no end to War (7)
- 5 Left after Arkwright pruned rose in Picardy (4)
- 6 Fish trappers uncover reels (6)
- 7 One who manipulates rich and poor into cart wheeling (12)
- 8 Emerson's work as inverted, say (5)
- 9 Spin-doctors treated with enemas, doctor (8)
- 10 Course director having to wash up (5)
- 16 Counterfeit map hasn't misguiding (8)
- 18 Joe's hero escaped from a barren cell (8)
- 20 Thief doing time in a top-coat (7)
- 22 A primitive or a sleeping beauty (6)
- 23 France's Tommy rises up around bunker (5)
- 24 Is Cardinal Henry the Elder about? (5)
- 26 One of the unwashed gets into the apple barrel (4)
- 30 Like Cassius, depend on it (4)

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Beyond India's ballot

WHAT IS INDIA? Jawaharlal Nehru spent years trying to answer that question as he shaped India's future. Does the country represent anything vital, he asked from jail in "The Discovery of India", apart from being the home of a vast number of human beings? How does it fit into the modern world? Nehru as Prime Minister provided his own answers, and his daughter Indira Gandhi still seemed on firm ground in declaring that "no one can be an Indian and not be proud". Since then India appears — to many Indians — to have lost its way and blurred its identity. Nehru's Congress, as the chief moulding influence, suffers most from this sense of disintegration. The questions which he posed now have to be put again.

Congress's defeat now is a terminal blow to the party's assumption of a natural right to rule. If it now emerges as the third runner, below the centre-left coalition, its humiliation may be beyond remedy by the resignation of Prime Minister-till-now Narasimha Rao. If part of it joins a coalition with the centre-left, then

that is the most it deserves. Yet to see what has happened merely in organisational terms is to over-simplify. India has suffered from changes in external factors — both economic and geo-political — over which no government in New Delhi could exercise control. It has also suffered for the opposite reason that a significant part of that external setting — the conflict with Pakistan — has not changed. But the real failure has been at home where the dominant forces in Indian political life, whether or not wearing the Congress label, have failed to grapple with the central issues which confront the bulk of India's 900 million. The current verdict that this election signifies the replacement of "national" by "local" issues is only half true. Rising prices (which put even publicly distributed grain beyond the reach of many poor), chronic water shortages and limping provision of health, education and housing, may be seen in a local context but they are national issues. Mr Rao seemed for a moment to have earned the chance — in the wake of the "hawala" scandal — to adopt corruption as a national mobilising issue. He may have unleashed the criminal investigation in February with that in mind. But the speed with which Congress's own complicity emerged soon ruled out that strategy. It is also a truism that the election demonstrates the rise of regional caste-based politics. Caste consciousness has indeed grown (though unevenly across the nation) as power structures have altered in rural India. But much of the electorate still turns to the local parties more by default than by preference.

The question for India's new government — of any complexion — is whether confidence can be restored, at least to some degree, in the centre's ability to tackle national problems at the local level. Whatever may be said by business analysts or deemed fit by the markets, the new competitive society now being fostered in Delhi shows little sign of taking India out of its impasse. The gulf between the yuppie generation and the vast illiterate population is only superficially bridged by the penetration of hair shampoos in rural shops. As more perceptive Indian observers point out, the expansion of the market does not guarantee the extension of a civil society capable of speaking coherently.

The election result does at least offer a chance of new thinking alongside new alignments. The eventual shape of the coalition will dictate whether such thinking is positive or negative for the future. It is said that both the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and the centre-left coalition, from opposite political poles, will tend towards more moderate pragmatism in power. That does not diminish the very wide gap between them. In its past origins and present alliances, the BJP still represents a threat to racial tolerance and social harmony. The centre-left may offer an uncertain mix, but it does seek more hopefully to blend modernisation with social justice. Whoever takes over, business as usual will only lead to fresh disaster. As Nehru wrote long ago, if the current task is to build a new house for India's future, then its foundations will have to be dug much deeper.

Tunes of genius

IN ONE of Ivy Compton-Burnett's novels a character remarks of the British Museum reading room that is curious to see a place which is wholly given over to the activity of rearranging the contents of old books into new ones. From Shakespeare to the Duchess of York, the art of creativity has always been dependent on what is politely called allusion and more forcefully described as plagiarism.

Nevertheless it comes as a bit of shock to learn that even Ludwig van Beethoven was not averse to a bit of the mantic borrowing, even to the extent of lifting his single most famous musical phrase, the V-for-Victory motto which dominates the fifth symphony, and from the composer of the Marseillaise at that. Beethoven isn't supposed to do things like that. He embodies the idea of the protean artist, expressing his inner will through music which is heroically his own. He reflects our very image of the uncompromising revolutionary artist, doing it all his own way, indebted to nothing but his own genius. He is the last person we would have imagined to have used, or to have needed to use, other people's ideas when his own were so good in the first place.

And yet, according to the scholar-conductor John Eliot Gardiner in tomorrow night's South Bank Show, Beethoven not only lifted his famous ta-ta-ta-

tum from Rouget de Lisle's Dithyrambic, but he also helped himself to other people's ideas in his sixth and seventh symphonies too. Like Rouget de Lisle, most of these other composers appear to have been writers of high-minded civic music in revolutionary France. The last movement of the Pastoral symphony, for example, which posterity has romantically taken on trust from Beethoven as a shepherd's song of thanksgiving, now turns out to have been based on a little known Hymn to Agriculture composed by the French composer Lefevre.

Mr Gardiner does his best to soften the blow which he has dealt to our illusions by saying that none of this should be seen as plagiarism. "It is the debt genius pays to the second rate. Beethoven transferred ordinary lines of music into something that was sublime," he tells the viewers tomorrow. Which is true, of course, and was nowhere better exemplified than by Beethoven himself in the 33 variations which he wrote on a banal little waltz tune by Diabelli, transforming it in the process into the seed of one of the greatest pieces of keyboard music ever composed. Nevertheless, there is no denying the shock of Mr Gardiner's news. At this rate, it won't be long before someone starts informing us that Bach lifted ideas from Vivaldi, Mozart from Gluck, Liszt from Chopin, Bruckner from Wagner, Elgar from Mendelssohn, Shostakovich from Rossini, or that some of Verdi's best ideas in Aida are filched from a chap he heard in the market one day. Except, of course, that these things all happened too. Et tu, Beethoven.

Following the demise this week of India's old order and South Africa's formerly dominant party, with their patterns of corruption and crash, MARTIN WOOLLACOTT wonders who will fill the power vacuum they leave. Illustration by PETER TILL



Crushing defeats for the mighty

THE idea of alternation in government is often presented as central to democracy. But the fact is that democracies featuring dominant parties are at least as common as two-party or multi-party systems.

The outcome of the elections in India and the withdrawal from government of the National Party in South Africa are a reminder that making democracy work in these conditions may be more important for the world than what happens in states where parties take regular turns at government.

In one, a dominant party has crashed, reducing the usual problem of a power vacuum that an untested and disparate opposition may not be able to fill. This in turn can lead to the limbo from which Italy, for instance, has not yet escaped. In the other, a dominant party sets out on its career facing the usual danger that power can be kept so easily that discipline and purpose falter.

The long decline and the ultimate crash are extreme versions of what happens to all political parties everywhere, but they can be crippling when experienced on this scale.

either to another coalition or to the original party. The classic drama of the dominant party is a long period during which energies and ideals are eroded, and the party loses touch with its popular base. There may be splits in its ranks, occasional successes for opposition parties at the national level, and big opposition successes at the provincial level.

There is almost always serious corruption, there may be political cheating and manipulation on a large scale, and a failure to tackle the tough issues of government. Then comes the crash, as the party is spectacularly punished for its failings, and that can be followed, as it was in India, by one, two, or more recoveries. The overall pattern in some form is probably inescapable.

But the difficulty for the societies experiencing it is how to minimise the damage and keep a vigorous democratic life in being.

This is the task that now faces South Africa. Serious students of the South African situation, like Stanley Uys, have predicted that a formidable opposition will in time emerge out of the black townships. The result could either be that the African National Congress will be flanked by opposition parties to the left and right, or that the ANC will split, leading to a broad left party and a broad right party contending for power. Such shifts may or may not take place, but, in any case, what to do in the meantime? The ANC answer has been to set up checks and balances in the political system, many incorporated in the new constitution, to propose a much more combative role for parliamentary committees than in other countries, and to emphasise its own tradition of internal democracy.

The opposition parties have already assumed themselves a watchdog role. The National Party, out of government, can now pursue this, as well as the attempted rebuilding of its own white constituency, without having to worry about the responsibilities of sharing power with the ANC. Some believe that the National Party, the pro-business, "English" party, could eventually merge and might even develop some serious appeal to black voters.

Yet, as Kader Asmal, one of the ANC's most able ministers, reasonably maintains, an opposition can't be "connected",

Allason in blunderland



Mary Riddell

POOR Rupert Allason. The shame. The ignominy. How gallingly he has built up a reputation as a world-famous spy writer only to have one's flaws and failings ruthlessly exposed by a tabloid newspaper.

Allason, as followers of political sleaze will know, this week gained *not* points for tradecraft when the Daily Mirror discovered a parking ticket, naming a certain beach on his car windscreen and thus discovered him reclining on a Riviera sunlounger with a woman who is not his wife.

So what, you are asking? This is not a story about espionage. Instead it is another of those stinging Tory sex scandals traditionally served up with steaming side-orders of justification and moral outrage.

Revenge, on the other hand, is a dish best eaten cold. Suffice to say that the latest addition to the extensive menu of Conservative sleaze was at best half-baked. Consider the ingredients: after four years' wrangling, Allason loses his High Court action for malicious falsehood against the Mirror and departs for a bit of R and R in the South of France, whence he is pursued by the newspaper's representatives.

What delicious retribution for the paper to discover him and his violinist friend, Jane Burgess, relaxing on a beach and to be able to spy on their holiday weekend. Fair game? Only up to a point. Lord Copper, Allason remains married, although he now describes himself as estranged from his wife. But he is not part of the Conservative moral majority, preferring instead to plough a maverick course.

Outside politics, he is famous for linking Terry Waite with the CIA and Robert Maxwell with Mossad while lunching the RCB at White's. Inside politics, he is noted for getting up the noses of the Whips and absconding himself from a crucial Maastricht vote — a move which earned him the nickname of "The Bermuda Triangle." In the Conservative pulpit of family values, he is an equally ephemeral presence.

Society, it is fair to say, looks to Rupert Allason for moral guidance in the same way as it looks to John Major for nursery places for all.

True, he has described himself as a family man, but his protagonist in this case regards himself as a family newspaper. I cannot think of a family in the land wishing to read six pages of minutely detailed PC Plod narrative describing Allason's tedious trek from his luxury hotel room (complete with four-poster bed and sunken bath) to the seaside and back, with the beach bar price-list, naturally extorted, lobbed in for good measure.

This is not to condone low standards among MPs. Far from it. But this was not a post back-to-basics story exposing gross hypocrisy or blatant lack of judgement. Instead it bore the uncomfortable whiff of a vendetta while saying nothing new about the abysmal standards of morality within the Conservative Party.

Two dangers: the first is that the currency of exposure stories is instantly devalued if the newspaper concerned appears to be working to a personal agenda only loosely tethered to the public interest.

And the second is that those Tory MPs who leap to their colleague's defence may regretfully, but possibly rightly, feel themselves safer and better justified in committing indiscretions far more relevant to the electorate.

Perhaps this tabloid story might be regarded as a no-score draw from which no one emerges with any great credit. So is there a lesson to be learned? Only that since the great spycatcher has previously mentioned himself in the same breath as his namesake, Rupert Brooke, he might henceforth remind himself that there is some distance of a foreign beach that is forever Canary Wharf and brush up accordingly on cold war tactics.

A picture accompanying the revelations failed to reveal the title of his holiday paperback. I trust it was a Le Carré.

I SUSPECT the Queen is less upset by the new portrait depicting her as a jaundiced-looking pensioner than its detractors might hope. On the contrary, imagine Her Majesty, a busy and thrifty one, commissioned it just so, on the same economical principle as buying children school uniform three sizes too big. Easy on the make-up, heavy on the wrinkles, and one won't have to bother with another for the next 30 years.

Smallweed



WILLIAM COLBY'S hiterto-missing cadaver may have turned up this week, but conspiracy theories surrounding the death of the former CIA chief will march on. Vengeful agency die-hards.

even-more-vengeful KGB veterans, US government death squads, all will be squeezed into the frame. In a contrary spirit, Smallweed offers a man with a perfect motive to have a crack at Colby, but who didn't do it. He didn't need to — he had taken his revenge 20 years earlier.

John Ehrlichman, domestic policy adviser to President Nixon from 1969 to 1973, served 18 months' imprisonment for his part in the burglary of a psychiatrist's office in 1971. The shrink had been treating Daniel Ellsberg, leaker of the so-called Pentagon Papers and a priority smear target for the White House. Ehrlichman had requested CIA help in the operation, a fact disclosed to Watergate investigator Henry Fetersen at the end of 1972 by one William Colby, then CIA deputy executive director.

It was the beginning of

Ehrlichman's descent into disgrace and jail. Released from prison, he wrote a best-selling roman à clef "The Company" (Simon & Schuster, 1976), all about the Nixon presidency, which was televised as Washington Behind Closed Doors. Within the first 15 minutes, the CIA chief (Cliff Robertson) grants a weaselly subordinate Bernie Tibbitts (Richard Gates) a free hand to wipe out Vietcong hide-aways. At the end of episode one, Tibbitts reports his "progress", with the help of a film depicting appalling brutality against civilians. Tibbitts boasts of his interrogation techniques: "We took two slants up 5,000 feet in a chopper, threw one of them over the side, the other one told us."

None of this seems to have much to do with the plot and, indeed, it doesn't. But you have to remember that Tibbitts, sorry Colby, provided

over Operation Phoenix, the clandestine American campaign during which 20,000 alleged Vietcong members were slaughtered. So there it is: a non-conspiracy conspiracy. Could any Watergate buff ask for more?

WHAT a May Day/ May Bank it was, and we refer not only to Month Zero of Arthur Scargill's Barnsley Rouge movement but also to the sometimes-intriguing, almost coded, greetings exchanged by the comrades. There they are in the pages of Tribune: Leominster Labour Party supports "Campaign Against Arms Trade's [sic] resistance to ARMS TRADE intimidation". Why the capital's Glasgow Maryhill branch is "continuing to Support Common Ownership", while modestly prompts Alex Smith "MEP" to declare he is "Working for Peace and Socialism in

Europe". Earlier aspirations are expressed by the Communication Workers Union, looking forward to "secure employment in a first-class Post Office", and the Musicians' Union sounds an uncertain note with its call: "Don't Let Music Become the NHS of the nineties."

Meanwhile, key planks of Arthur's programme (a job for life, retirement on full pay at 55, a four-day week) suggest he may after all have learned something from his old adversaries, the police.

NOW for A-Watch, our very own Colby-style search-and-destroy mission against "inappropriate" detects some choice examples. The Foreign Office on Monday, for example, warning that expulsion of British spies (sorry, diplomats) from Moscow would meet an "appropriate response", or Margaret Hodge,

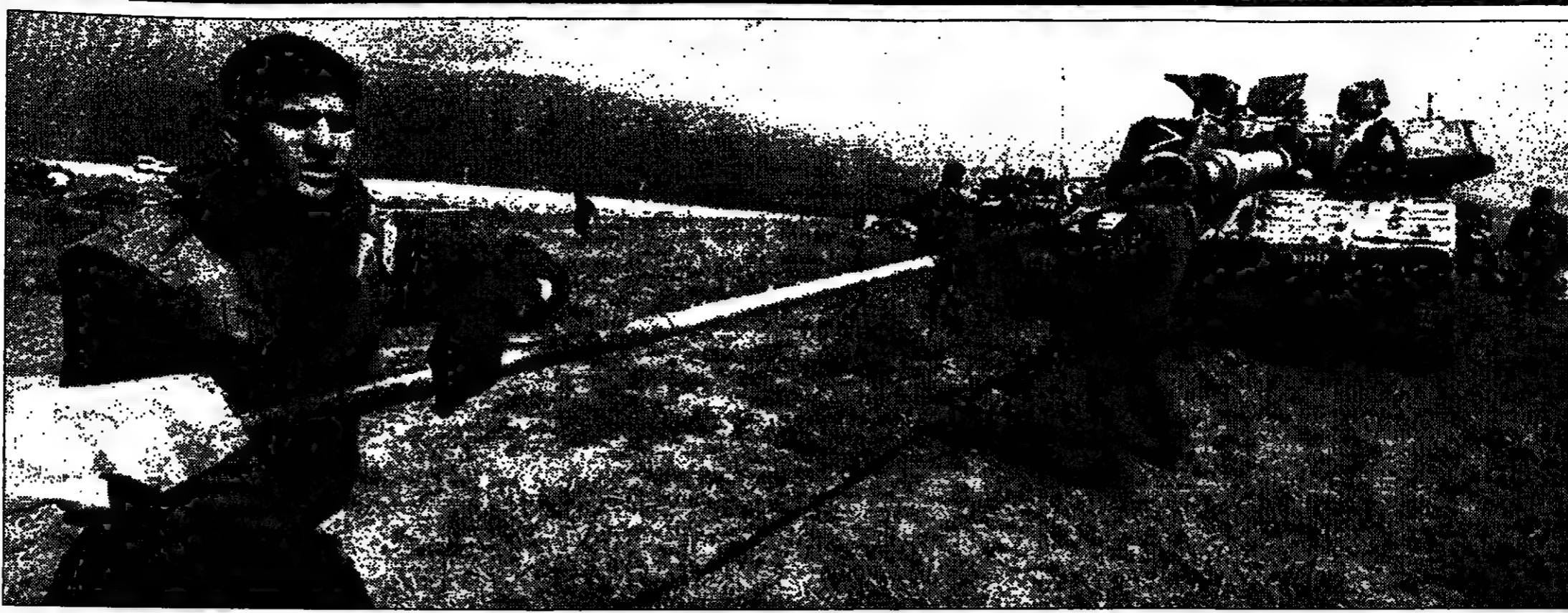
to the healing of divisions in far more important areas of sportmanship. The reunification of the Baccarat family, for example, will be a task equal to reversing the effects of the Big Bang. Punto banco, sherry, and the upstart Super Pan 9 spin-off into the furthest reaches of card-playing, prompting ever-thicker reference books explaining the multiplying sets of rules.

For the code fusion buffs, the challenge is not merely to bring back these lost sheep, but simultaneously to reunite *vingt-et-un*, pouton and blackjack. Then the Ritz could host a showdown of Bath, Wigan proportions between the legendary blackjacker Kerry Packer and a modern-day *Le Chiffre* of baccarat. It will be too bad for the rulebook publishers, of course, but as we used to say in Craven Park, you can't blame Hull Kings-ton Rovers for that.

July 10 1980

Operation Grapes of Wrath was a tactical disaster for Israel's politicians and military. But beneath the official excuses and bluster DEREK BROWN senses a new mood of vindication

Shell shock... Clockwise from right, Israeli soldiers prepare their guns; UN soldiers cover Gaza victims; Fatima Ismail cries over her injured son, Ali, four



Gunners' cover is blown

THERE was a time, not so long ago, when Israeli soldiers bragged about "pinpoint strikes". Reporters covering Operation Grapes of Wrath from the Israeli side were encouraged to visit batteries of Israeli 155mm self-propelled guns and the sophisticated radar installations which guided the shells. Thus, on April 17, on a bleak hilltop almost within spitting distance of the Lebanese border, a small group of us were given a brief introduction to Fire Finder, a radar clever enough to identify, precisely and almost immediately, the launching site of a Katyusha missile. Ella, a lieutenant in her early twenties, offered a succinct explanation: "The mission objective is to find the artillery of the enemy, if it is a Katyusha or anything else. If they fire, we see a spot on our map and we get the co-ordinates of where it was fired, then we order our artillery to shoot at it." All this, she added, happened in less than 30 seconds. Ella enjoyed her job as deputy commander of the unit; one of an elite few women in the front line. "Here you feel you are in the army, not a girl in

the office or making the coffee for your officer," she said. That was the day before Israel's state-of-the-art military machine slaughtered 102 Lebanese refugees in a United Nations camp at Qana, and the Grapes of Wrath turned sour. It was, at the very least, a callous, cavalier cock-up. But the slather of official inconsistencies, contradictions and downright lies which followed has reinforced another view, the UN view, that the bombardment of Qana was deliberate. From the outset, the army has insisted that what happened was "a mistake". It has been much less consistent about the nature, scale, and detail of the error. On day one, it was said that the guns had responded to a Katyusha rocket launch some 300 yards from the UN base. Only after five days did another, more elaborate version emerge: that an Israeli patrol had come under attack by both Katyushas and mortar rounds, and that the commander, wrongly believing that some of his men had been hit, had asked urgently for artillery cover. There was indeed Katyusha activity in the area, according

to the UN report, by Dutch military adviser Major General Franklin van Kappen, two or three rockets were fired from a position 350 yards south-east of the Qana compound and another four or five were fired from a position 600 yards away, in the same direction. Between five and eight mortar rounds were fired from only 200 yards south-west of the compound. They were the cause of the subsequent horror. According to the Israeli version, still being dutifully reproduced in some papers, "a couple of rounds" of return fire unfortunately overshoot the target and landed in the Qana camp. Another, scarcely more credible, version is that there was an error in the map at Northern Command, which sanctioned the firing. An Israeli artillery expert, with long experience of operations in south Lebanon, told the Guardian that in firing over hills and ridges, there was always a risk that some shells would narrowly miss the target and land some distance beyond on lower ground. That was why, he thought, two shells had hit Qana. The former officer was plainly astonished to learn that no fewer than eleven shells exploded on or above

the compound and four more close by. Moreover, according to the van Kappen report, during the six minutes or so of carnage, the weight of shelling actually shifted from the mortar-firing site, towards and into the UN compound. Another damning feature of the UN report is its inclusion of an amateur videotape clearly showing an Israeli Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) or drone aircraft, operating in the Qana area. The tape soundtrack, which captures the sound of shelling and the RPV engine, rain-fires the target and landed in the Qana camp. The Israeli army which vehemently denied having a drone in the Qana area until the existence of the UN video

Israel from its post-Qana diplomatic plight, offers little beyond the 1993 understanding that civilians should not be targeted. Yet in Israel there is little sense of the futility of the exercise, let alone remorse. This is how two of the most respected journalists in the land summed it up, in the popular daily Yedioth Ahronoth: "Between 50 to 80 terrorists were killed in the operation. That is more than Israel manages to wipe out in one year. There were no casualties to the Israeli side. Two were severely wounded, and dozens more were sent home from hospital. The price to Israel was mainly economic. All in all, aside from the horror at Kfar Kana (sic), it was a deluxe operation. For an even cruder view of a crude little war which killed up to 200 people, there is the comment of an army gunner, in the Jerusalem weekly, Kol Ha'Ir. He said: "It's a war. In a war these things happen. It's just a bunch of Arabs."

THE few laments which have been heard about Grapes of Wrath, have mostly concerned Israel's failure to eliminate Hizbullah, or drive a harder ceasefire bargain. Prime minister Shimon Peres — still consistently though narrowly ahead in the opinion polls in the run-up to general elections on May 29 — has hardly been damaged. Yet there are voices of dissent, among them Arieh Shavit writing in the daily Ha'arets. His analysis of what happened at Qana will no doubt be dismissed by the more ardent conspiracy theorists as yet another excuse for Israel. But it is more damning, and more damning, than any amount of military fumbling with the truth. He wrote of Grapes of Wrath: "We did not kill all these people in a fit of passion. Not from Messianic extremism and not in nationalistic ecstasy. We killed them incidentally... How easily we killed them, without shedding a tear. Without establishing a commission of inquiry. Without filling the streets with protest demonstrations. It would seem that we have grown up quite a lot, as this time we shot and didn't cry. "We killed them with a kind of yuppie efficiency. We believe with absolute certitude that right now, with the White House in our hands, the Senate in our hands and the New York Times in our hands, the lives of others do not count in the same way as our own."

Defence of an icon who still inspires



Martin Kettle If the religion of British socialism has a presiding saint, then it is surely William Morris. No one else in this country's socialist history inspires fiercer loyalty or passion. Not Tom Mann. Not even Bevan. Only Orwell can come close to him. You could attack any of these others and get away with it, especially now that the left has lost so much of its self-belief. But Morris is different. He may not have been a particularly nice man, but he is the one icon of British socialism to have survived undiminished by time, the one socialist in our history who seems somehow still to be living today, speaking directly to us even 100

years after his death. To attack Morris is a profanity too far against the socialist heritage. If he did not know that beforehand, then Deyan Sudjic must certainly realise it now, after his death against Morris in this paper on May 3. For those who missed it, Sudjic's essential case was that Morris was hopelessly torn between nostalgia for an imaginary past and a visionary longing for an anti-modern utopia. Adding a few well-placed insults, in particular the charge that Morris was the inspiration for Poi Pot's Year Zero, Sudjic retired to a well-earned, enviable bombast which then followed. The readers have made their case powerfully, and it isn't my intention to repeat what I said in their letters. In my case I think it is a mistake to imagine either that anyone ever got everything right or that a man who lived more than a century ago can provide us with a hand-me-down set of answers to all of today's problems. What I would say, however, is that Morris's priorities remain astonishingly contem-

porary, in a way which is not true of the more narrowly political or economic socialist writers of that era. I don't overlook the trenchant polemicism, but Morris's preoccupation with, as one of his essays puts it, *How We Live and How We Might Live*, places him much closer to our own mental universe than do the writings of, for instance, Marx. Morris was a tremendous ecologist and conservationist in ways that we can easily identify with. And there is an imagination and a vigour in all of Morris's work which transcends almost all his particular obsessions. This does not mean that he actually achieved very much. Brian Sewell rightly wrote this week that Morris's central preoccupation, the awakening of the decorative artistic instinct in the working man to create and enjoy useful and beautiful things, has been mocked by all subsequent experience. In their millions, people continue to choose to live surrounded by hideous things. In this as in so much else, Morris does not offer us a previously undiscovered way out of our problems. But as Sewell

also admits, he talked a tremendous amount of really good sense about them, and with real passion. My own dissatisfaction with Sudjic's article is not so much concerned with Morris as such, but with the very important charge which he makes against Morris and, by implication, many others too. Sudjic says that Morris's chief fault is to combine nostalgia with utopianism, that his vision of the future was rooted within a vision of the past, and that it is not desirable to look backwards and forwards at the same time. The inference, if I read him correctly, is that the art of the future and the society of the future can only be truly effective if they break with the past altogether. I do not see how this can possibly be correct. It is surely the case and I hope it is clear that we are talking about far more than wallpaper design here — that the new can only ever be built upon the lessons of the old. Whether an individual is in our personal lives, or as artists in our expressive lives, or as societies which are trying to come to terms with the challenges of public policy, we always emerge from our past to count our future. It is a fundamental illusion to believe that you can create anything without roots or foundations. These roots and foundations are what we inherit. We can pretend they do not exist, but we can never escape them. They aren't optional. They are like our own DNA. They determine the kind of changes that we can make in the future. I cannot see anything wrong in Morris creating a vision of the future in *News From Nowhere* that bears such an uncanny resemblance to the Cotswolds, when that is where he lived and was the world he loved. The failure would have been to have slipped into science fiction, creating a world wholly detached from what he knew. In many respects, this is the biggest issue of them all. Rich-

ly razing the old to the ground and starting from scratch. That is the great illusion of the early 20th century. It is where the Bolsheviks went wrong, at massive cost not just to Russia but to the credibility of socialism generally. This is one reason, for example, why it is misleading to say that Labour is proposing the end of the welfare state. It is certainly proposing to change it, and to recommitment in a very different form from what it may inherit. Those changes may, in the end, involve very hard choices about priorities. But you can no more end the welfare state than you can end religion or destroy the aesthetic superiority of a curve over a straight line. To say that William Morris looked backwards and forwards at the same time is simply to say that he was a human being. It is to say that, because he is so explicit and vigorous about acknowledging it in his own case. But in this respect he is so very different from John Major, trying to recreate the happy south London of the 1950s which so clearly haunts his own imagination? We all do it. We are all right to do it. There is no way that we can or should stop doing it. We today must do it our way, as best we can, in the way that makes sense for us. But if we are looking for a mind to emulate, an imagination to live up to, then there are few better models still than William Morris.

The Guardian Offers Brighton Literary Festival supported by The Guardian. Guardian Readers can get two tickets for the price of one, to the following events on production of this voucher at the Dome Box Office, 29 New Road, Brighton BN1 (subject to availability). 10 May Century Saga, 8pm: Neil Bartlett. 11 May See Under Love, 7.30pm: David Grossman/Sarah Dornant. 15 May Eighteen Britain, 8pm: Andrew O'Hagan/Jan Jack. 18 May Reality and Dreams, 8pm: Ben Okri. For more information about these and other events at the Brighton Literary Festival, call the Box office on 01273 708 77. Sponsored by ALLIANCE LEICESTER. Nationwide Book Offer. Guardian Readers get £2 off the following paperback featured at the Festival at Dillons bookstores between May 4-25 1996. Exchange this voucher for £2 off. Halfpunting Focuser - Pat Duncker. Anthropologist on Mars - Oliver Sacks. The Black Album - Haril Kuresh. Heart's Journey in Winter - James Buchan. Crazy Paving - Louise Doughty. Mr Olive and Mr Page - Neil Bartlett. The State We're In - Will Hutton. Daughters of Cain - Colin Dexter. Theory of War - Joan Brady. Kiss & Tell - Alan de Botton. The voucher is not exchangeable for cash and only one voucher may be redeemed per book.

No votes for Dame Shirley

DOES anyone seriously believe that Shirley Porter, sacked for her conduct in Westminster, will ever have to pay up (Porter faces £31m bill, May 10)? I can guarantee that the court proceedings will be presided over by a tame Tory judge who will find some get-out for them all.

Any public outcry this might cause will not matter because the other certainty is that the legal process will be prolonged until after the general election.

(Rev) Derrick W Cooling, Church Hill, Purlfeigh, Essex CM3 9QH.

ONE wonders how democracy is to be restored in Westminster Council. If majority rule is its defining criterion, patently then, to engineer a majority is to undermine democracy. The majority in Westminster apparently did not appreciate that the crucial assent in democracy is the assent of the minority. Unwillingness to be a minority marks out the sectarian who sees elections not as the expression of the "organic" unity of a people but as a power struggle.

As a result of the Tories' "houses for votes" there are areas of Westminster where nobody cares what the greater number of people think.

F Girth, 25 Fulmar Drive, Sale, Cheshire M33 4WH.

DON'T recall any reluctance on the part of government ministers to condemn the Birmingham Six during their long process of appeal. Perhaps the fact that they were waiting in prison for their appeal to be heard made it a bit more confusing. Lady Porter and her colleagues have been found guilty of serious crimes, but they have the luxury of

being able to appeal from the comfort of their own homes.

Ken Saville, 41 Plympton Road, London NW6 7EH.

THE issue of housing policy may come to haunt the second Tory flagship of Wandsworth as much as their neighbours in Westminster. Wandsworth Council have rejected the limited proposals from John Major on affordable housing and instead have recommitted themselves to allowing only supply and demand to determine rents for council and private housing.

Rents will now rise to the point where the council and the private landlords' ability to exploit people's need for a home meets their tenants' ability to pay rent without starving. Any hardship is expected to be met by housing benefit — as ever, a Tory flagship seeks government subsidy for political experiments.

Martin Smith, Secretary, Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council, 177a Lavender Hill, London SW11 9TE.

DAAME Shirley's view of council work in Stow-on-the-Wold is old-fashioned. As the Cotswold Council spends enormous sums each year in persecuting the gypsies who attend its two annual horse fairs while struggling to create a suburban dormitory town with Cotswold trimmings, Dame Shirley's experience of persecuting those without influence would prove invaluable.

And the fact that the council has rolled over and is allowing a large Tesco to be built to dominate Stow's outskirts must surely be a plus point in Dame Shirley's estimation.

Anne Jenkin, Grange Farm Studios, Brockhampton, Andoverford, Cheltenham GL54 5XQ.

Only rationing will cure the NHS

DAVID BRINDLE'S discovery of the financial crisis facing many NHS trusts is old hat (Warning of 'meltdown' in NHS market as trusts resist squeeze, May 7). NHS executives and observers have for months been comparing the 1995-97 financial situation with 1987-88. The NHS "balanced its books" in 1995-96 because underspending on primary care (eg, by GP fundholders) was sufficient to meet the overspend of trusts, many of which are unable to meet their 6 per cent return on assets.

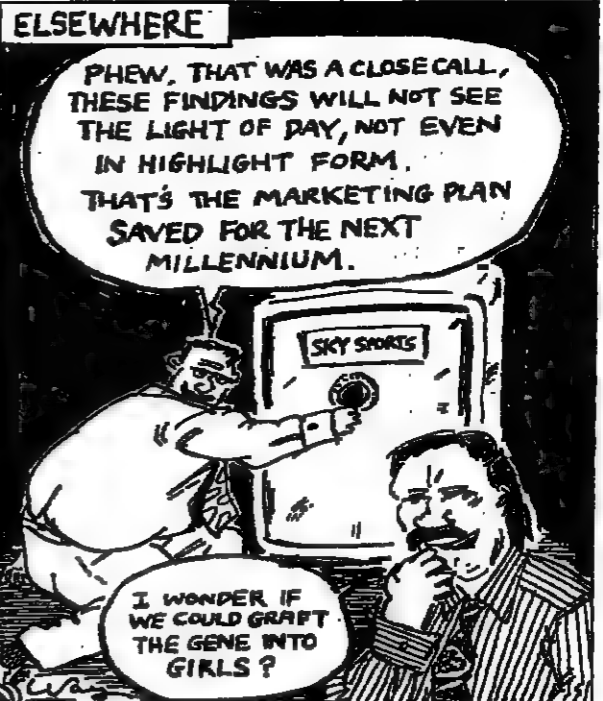
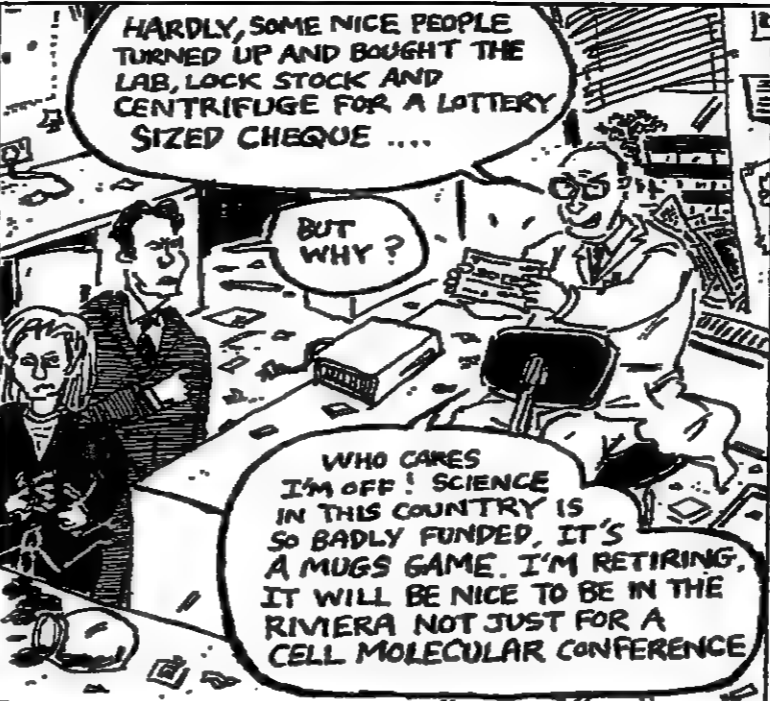
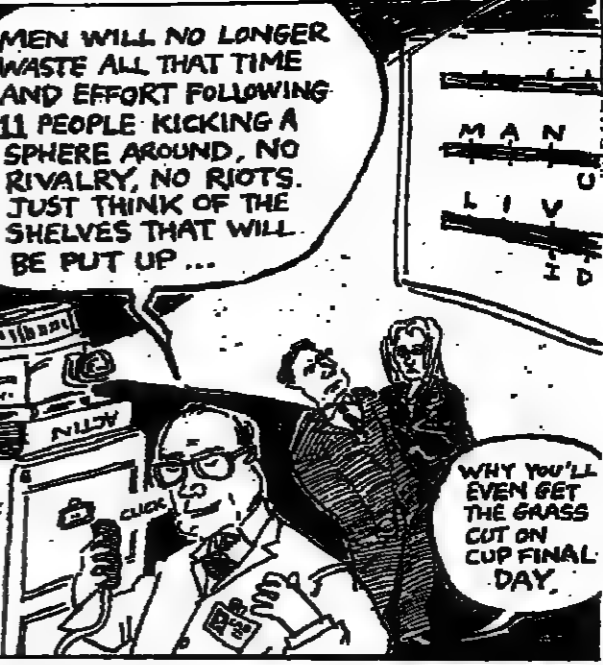
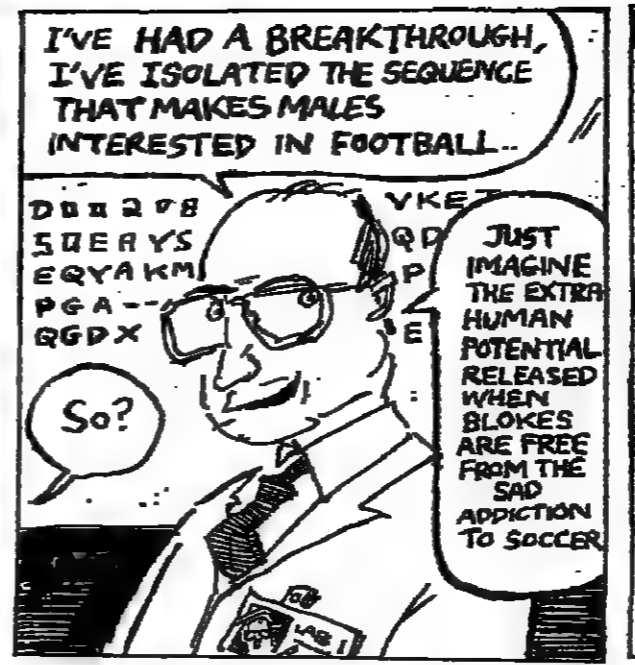
During the last five years, activity in NHS trusts has risen by 18 per cent with relatively little extra spending. However, whether the trusts can maintain these remarkable "efficiency savings" is unclear. The next financial year offers trust chief executives a nice choice. If they focus on emergency cases, they may have insufficient funds for

elective cases and waiting times will rise. Mr Dorrell is unlikely to welcome this in an election year and his commissioners in the regions are likely to make bureaucrats' lives unpleasant.

However, the real issue that will emerge is rationing. Isn't it time it was accepted that the issue is not whether to ration (it happens all the time) but how? Shouldn't there be a public debate about the principles which determine who will live, in what degree of pain and discomfort, and who will die?

It is these issues, rather than the belated discovery of trust overspend, on which the media might usefully focus and, in so doing, embarrass politicians who will not grapple with this reality.

Frank Alan Maynard, Secretary, Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 59 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RD.



Why the euro is losing currency

YOUR headline (European single currency opposed by two out of three Britons, May 9) expresses the view that the number now against EMU is a sensation. Surely the only amazing thing is that with almost the entire written media now against a single currency — either hysterically like the Mail and Times, or slightly more subtly like the Guardian — anyone at all remains for it. Where are the 20 per cent still for it getting their information from?

Those on the left, like yourselves, want to peddle the Euro-sceptic line owe their readers answers to several questions. First, what exchange-rate policy do they suggest if we keep out of EMU? The ERM experience shows that fixed but adjustable rates cannot work. I fail to see how the only viable option, floating exchange rates, leads to a more stable economy, let alone one where centre-left values come to the fore.

Second, given the doubts that we all have about Maastricht, are we more likely to get them altered and find positive interpretations of the Maastricht ambiguities in or out of EMU?

Lastly, since the only

reason for staying out is to keep open the option of devaluing, can you come clean that your view of the UK's future is constantly to devalue, and that you believe that the cost of keeping this dubious option open, higher interest rates, is worth it in the medium term.

Let's get some sensible debate going before the whole of Britain gets itself into a lather of anti-EU sentiment that leads us nowhere useful.

Dan Corry, Senior Economist, Institute for Public Policy Research, 30-32 Southampton Street, London WC2R 7RA.

POLITICIANS are coy about the real European debate. They talk in terms of pro-Europe or anti-Europe, not about what sort of Europe they would like to share. Economic and monetary union without parallel commitment to social rights and social protection is producing a more and more divided Europe — divided between richer and poorer, and by an increase in knee-jerk nationalism. It is a poster-beg Europe.

The task of promoting British entry into the EC, while the government was negotiating for it. Public-opinion polls at

the end of 1970 showed 70 per cent opposed to entry and only 18 per cent in favour. After an intensive information and education campaign lasting some six months, and when the government completed its negotiations, public opinion swung to a majority in favour of membership. A similar swing of public opinion took place between June 1974 and the referendum on membership a year later.

The lesson is that, given an effective lead by government and an intensive information campaign, majority public support for further European integration, including a single currency, is likely.

Ernest Wistrich, 370 Geyton Road, London NW3 1UB.

YOUR poll highlights the success of rightwing misinformation and scare-mongering more than anything else. How can we have true polls (let alone a referendum) when fear is being played so successfully against the pro-European union politics of all three of Britain's largest parties?

Paul Douglas, 2 Bd Armand Durportail, 31070 Toulouse, France.

Moscow leaks intelligence on expelled British spies

WITH regard to the arrest by Russian counter-intelligence of a Russian citizen found to have been working for British intelligence (Tit for tat spy row threat, May 7): the agent was caught red-handed in the act of communicating intelligence data to the SIS station head in Moscow. He had equipment for sending encoded messages.

During interrogation, according to information obtained by RIA-Novosti, he admitted his criminal connection with British intelligence and supplied detailed information concerning his recruitment by and subsequent co-operation with the SIS.

RIA-Novosti also has data to indicate that the Russian SIS agent worked in the federal government and had access to state secrets of a political and defence nature. He spied for financial rather than for ideological reasons.

The document supplied to British Ambassador, Sir Andrew Wood, contained a list of nine Britons and detailed their connections with the Russian agent. The nine are career intelligence officers, not diplomats, according to Alexander Zdanovich.

cial government knowledge. A short while ago the FSB arrested Vadim Sentsov, a ranking official in the Russian military industrial complex, on charges of being a British secret services agent. Sentsov confessed his guilt.

In late 1994, Moscow expelled Counsellor John Scarlett, then M16 station head. Spying against Russia is a serious accusation. Nevertheless, Russian Foreign Ministry press secretary Grigory Karasin chose to make a conciliatory statement: "Indeed, this is an unpleasant incident, to put it mildly. But the main thing today is that British and Russian officials should be guided by common sense and should not let the incident harm British-Russian relations which have been successful lately." To be sure, it is hardly advisable to be guided by rash emotions or to make hasty decisions in this delicate situation.

Vyacheslav Lashkul, Russian Information Agency, Novosti, 8 Rosary Gardens, London SW7 4NW.

To a degree

IAM astounded by the decision of Brunel University to give an honorary degree to Lady Thatcher (Letters, May 10). Students in the early eighties could expect to graduate with minimal debts, having enjoyed at least a minimum grant. In 1982 the Building Technology department of Brunel was closed as a direct result of cuts and departmental liquidation started to be measured by reference to outside funding. What has happened since that time to take the responsibility for the decline in tertiary education away from the administration of the day, or is there a 10-year statute of limitations for governmental mismanagement?

M G Jacobs, (BSc Econ, Brunel), 15 Agamemnon Road, London NW6 1EJ.

Tabloid corner

FAR be it from me to venture a diagnosis at a distance, but as Frances Whelan begins to show some signs of being obsessed with me (When's world, May 8)? The true obsessionist is very concerned to get things exactly right, which is certainly not a prominent feature of Mr Whelan's writings — he has yet again accused me of slipping psychiatric diagnoses on celebrities in my writings in the national press. In fact, not only have I never done this, but Mr Whelan himself fails consistently to provide any examples. I have had to write on two previous occasions to the Guardian to correct his desperately selective and inaccurate quoting of my pieces to support his speculations.

NHS workers like myself are curious that a newspaper like the Guardian seems only to promote the views of therapists with no qualifications in psychology and psychiatry (and hence who work only in private practice) while it seeks inaccurately to attack those who work in the NHS. I wonder what message is really being sent to the public? (Dr) Raj Persaud, (MSc MPhil MRCPsych), Consultant Psychiatrist, Warrington Park Hospital, Warrington, Surrey CR6 9YR.

IAM flattered to be quoted in your "Talking Dirty" column (Women, May 9), in which I expressed the view that what mothers want for their sons are good wives rather than tough, competitive women. But the textual coherence was incomplete. I added "We don't want them hanging around with the kind of bad girls that some of us used to be." I am aware that media-studies students use the Guardian as a source, and if I am to be deconstructed I wouldn't want the jokes omitted.

Mary Kenny, Daily Express, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9LX.

MPs' deal fuels road rage

LAST year I gave a course of 10 lectures for the Workers' Educational Association and was paid 20p a mile for travelling expenses. Unfortunately, the Inland Revenue (Letters, May 10) insists on the WEA's extracting income tax from the expenses, even though my main place of work is my home and my travelling falls precisely within the terms of the legislation in that the expenses were incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of my duty.

The Inspector remains intransigent, even dismissing my arguments with barely concealed contempt in describing my work as not being "work" in the normally accepted sense.

It's an interesting contrast with the 20 or so Conservative MPs on 74p a mile expenses, paid out of my paltry contributions, who have got away with a tax amnesty of about £400,000 from the Revenue — even though some of them were apparently using company cars and claiming parliamentary expenses. What is more, ministers included an exemption in the Finance Act for their own journeys from home to work, while many of us suspect their work would be done more competently if they did stay at home.

It is pleasant to read that some citizens can get one over on the Revenue all the same, but what would you suggest I do to resolve my little spat with them? Should I go along to have a quiet word with the Chancellor? Perhaps he could sort out my local inspector for me and put him right about what is work and what is not work.

J R Trench, 5 Gray Close, Sutton on the Forest, North Yorkshire YO6 1DQ.

FOR 10 years I have attempted, unsuccessfully, to resist the Inland Revenue taxing my mileage allowance.

As a peripatetic full-time employee of the National Health Service, my contract stated that I had to work at six hospitals in East Anglia, two of them 100 miles apart. I travelled about 10,000 miles each year purely for the state. I had to provide the car myself and bear the depreciation of that car within the mileage allowance. My mileage allowance a year ago, when I retired, was half that enjoyed by MPs.

To read that MPs were favoured by not only HM Inspector of Taxes and the Inland Revenue Commissioners, but also the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, made me very angry. Is this another two-tier system? I have little sympathy with MPs' demand for a pay rise, certainly not of the magnitude suggested.

B A Ross, 8 The Crescent, Chapelfield Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1SA.

Not Condon-ed

SIR Paul Condon's reaction to the recent awards of substantial damages against the Metropolitan Police is deeply disappointing. By blaming lawyers for increasingly pursuing such claims, and juries for their awards, he appears to ignore the message which the juries hoped to send him.

It is true that the number of civil actions against the police has increased dramatically in the last decade. This reflects increasing disenchantment with the police's procedures and growing awareness of civil actions as an effective remedy for victims of police misconduct.

Damages paid out by the Metropolitan Police have increased fourfold in the last 10 years because a large proportion of actions has been settled by the police or won by plaintiffs in court. Juries are entitled to award exemplary damages in any case where there is arbitrary or oppressive behaviour. The purpose of the award is to mark the jury's disapproval of the actions of the officers involved. If a jury finds that officers have not only assaulted a plaintiff or fabricated evidence against them, but also lied in court, it is not surprising that it awards a large sum of exemplary damages. In my experience as a barrister, juries are particularly incensed by the spectacle of officers who have acted in this way remaining in the force with no prospect of being disciplined even after their verdict.

I can well understand Sir Paul's reluctance to see his limited budget reduced further by awards of damages, but the surest remedy would be an effective complaints procedure. Until this exists, juries will continue to mark their disapproval of police misconduct in the only way they can.

Patrick Roche, 14 Toaks Court, Cursitor Street, London EC4A 3JY.

YOU report that MPs receive 60 to 74 pence mileage rates for their cars. Qualified teachers in Croydon, serving as home tutors for children who are out of school because of sickness or behavioural problems, get a fixed allowance of 10 pence per mile.

Is the work of MPs seven times more valuable than that of teachers? David Finch, 19 Dulverton Road, South Croydon CR2 8PJ.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mail letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

A Country Diary

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: Everywhere plants are busting ahead to produce ever more flowers. Now is the time to remember banks of snowdrops, usually the first flowers of the year. The fore-runners, they can go without our noticing — we are going here and there in pursuit of the original daffodil, the small wild one. On May 1, 1871, Gerard Manley Hopkins observed: "The bright yellow corolla is seeded with five fine spangles which give it a glister and lie on a ribbing which makes it like cloth of gold." Next blackthorn and white blossom crowd around us. Hedges turn into superbountiful white bubbles with sharp yellow cries from the whin. Hawthorns will follow. Now the greatercelandines are standing up in green clumps with surprisingly small and brief flowers soon to turn into strong catpawling seed pods. We camped for a week in Wiltshire. On the journey we passed fields which were growing simply dandelions, a celebration of yellow. We assumed it was

set-aside land gathering its strength. The effect was voluptuous. Other fields had oil seed rape to throw a more lemony yellow astonishment over the earth. We camped on land belonging to an organic farmer. Dove foot geraniums were already in flower whilst the musk thistles are so common they have to be dug out. Their prickly rosette is the size of a large dinner plate. Next month the solitary flower head will be tumbling in the breeze. Cowslips were abundant. One piece of disturbed chalk land near Avebury was crammed with young cowslips and salad burnet interspersed with beech seedlings fallen from a tall stand of majestic trees. Very young large red damselfishes welcomed us home. Nymph cases cling to the leaves of irises and rushes. The youngest have lime green stripes on the thorax and a body of transparent plum. They appear and disappear like wraiths. The swallows come, swooping over the water for a quick sip.

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Neil Simon is the most successful playwright in the world - the bard of what goes on behind the bedroom door

The lives and wives of a legend



The Joanna Coles Interview

NEL SIMON is an unusual interviewee in that he does not mind talking about himself. I mean really talking about himself. When I ask about the first of his four marriages, he does not raise a rich and pompous hand to declare that he never speaks about his family. Indeed I cannot stop him talking about his family. About what went wrong with Joan (wife number one) and Marsha (wife number two) and Diane (confusingly wife number three and four).

"I asked Marsha [Marsha Mason, the actress and his second wife] to marry me two and a half weeks after I'd met her, that was three months after my first wife died." He shakes his head, still puzzled. "To this day that baffles me."

Then he announces that he wishes his wife, Diane, was with him for our interview, so she could tell me what she really thinks about him. About the man who scrounged into the Neiman Marcus department store in New York one day, where she was working behind the counter. As he got to the exit, laden with his Christmas purchases, he suddenly decided he couldn't face the future without seeing this particular shop assistant again. So he turned right around and went back and asked her for a date. She was a wannabe actress and he was the most performed playwright in the western world.

Heavens, this man is even frank about money. He has lost millions of the stuff. "Billions of dollars, yes," he nods. "I've gone into investments and lost a lot of money." What sort of investments? "The sort of things investors told me to invest in, not things I'm interested in."

"I've been taken in a little bit, ripped off in a certain way, you know, they were overcharging me for things, because I never watched it carefully." He gives a hopeless, low-energy shrug and for a moment you can see why some fast-talking investment dealer might have thought Simon an Andre touch. He speaks gently and intensely. But he bears no sign of conspicuous consumption. In his pampas jumper and beige cords, he could almost be the sofa in his rented beige apartment at the Grosvenor House Hotel. He doesn't even own a

car, he leases one instead. What kind? "A small Mercedes." What model? "I don't know what model it is, you're scrounging just like a policeman," he grumbles, hands in lap, his feet in Hush Puppies. "I never set out to make money. It just comes. Like some weird thing."

And comes and comes. Though he has lost millions more. He just can't seem to stop — something which still confuses him because he grew up in a poor Brooklyn home, where his father disappeared with alarming regularity and there was never enough money to pay the bills.

And now here he is, the only living playwright with a theatre named after him on Broadway. Though he may not be a household name, you will probably know the titles of some of his sweet-bitter works. Barefoot in The Park (the film starred Robert Redford and Jane Fonda), The Odd Couple, Plaza Suite, California Suite (for which Maggie Smith won an Oscar), They're Playing Our Song, Rumours, Lost in Yonkers, Brighton Beach Memoirs... In the last 29 years, he has written 24 plays and a score of screenplays.

'What interests me most about couples is knowing what they say to each other in the privacy of their own bed'

His building blocks are marriage and relationships — what makes them tick and too — often based on his own experiences.

"What interests me most about couples," says Simon, "is knowing what they say to each other in the privacy of their bedroom. I'm not talking about sex. Sometimes I look at people and I think, I don't think they talk about anything. They just say 'Well, we have to see Harold tomorrow.' Or 'I'm going to play golf and I have to get the car fixed.' You have to wonder why they marry."

He was struck by this as he lay between the linen sheets in the guest room at the White House last December, after picking up a Kennedy Honour for lifetime achievement.

"I know the Clintons, we've met a few times now, and I don't know what they say to each other. I do think they talk though. This is not a couple who don't have things to say to each other."

Neil fell asleep before midnight, but his wife Diane snooped off down the Clinton

family corridor and found the President at his desk, still working. "They started talking and Hillary came in and they chatted about children. Bill wrote Diane a wonderful letter when her mother died."

"I watched him at the Kennedy Honours, and there were moments which were truly touching. A hundred homeless children had been taught to dance, and I looked over at Bill and he had tears in his eyes and it was genuine. Then the papers say they're mock tears. He's not that good an actor."

The Simons will both canvass in Hollywood for Clinton at the next election. But what do they think about White Water? "Forget it. Let's talk about Genettifer Flowers. She was during the past not during his tenancy as the President. JFK was doing it constantly only the press didn't talk about it. But now," he says despairingly, "there's just so many gossip shows for all this stuff."

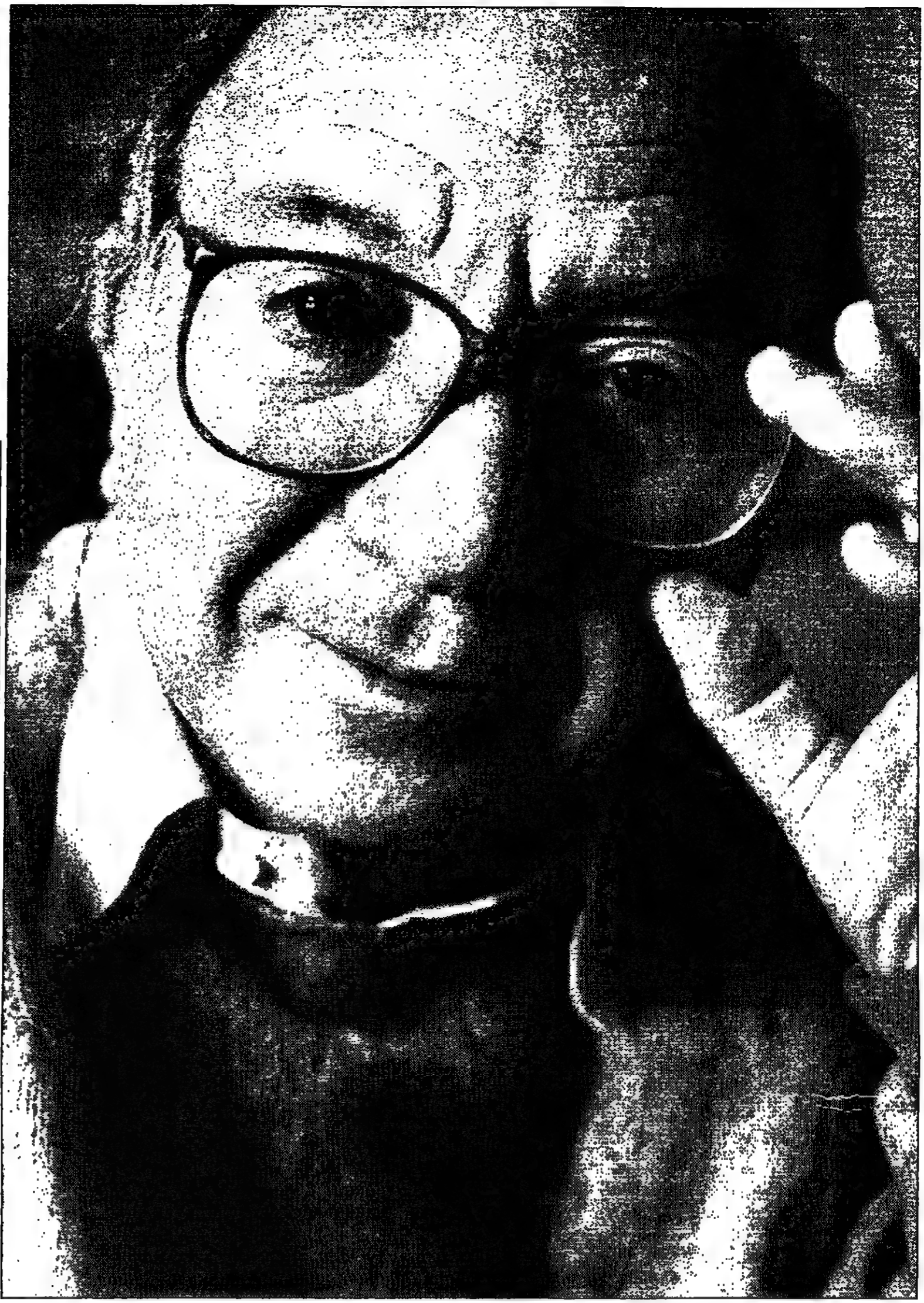
Simon himself has been the subject of much gossip, though as he puts a great deal of his own experience on stage he cannot complain too loudly. His entire life is out there, from his childhood and parents' divorce in the brilliant Brighton Beach Memoirs, to his adolescent army days in Biloxi Blues; his first marriage in Barefoot in The Park and his second marriage in Chapter Two, currently enjoying a revival in the West End with Tom Conti and Sharon Gless.

Chapter Two is a funny and comedy based on Simon's decision to marry Marsha Mason, soon after the death of his first wife Joan, from cancer.

Simon and Mason met on set. After two difficult years, dominated by Simon's guilt at his inability to forget Joan, they moved to California where Marsha was nominated for an Oscar for best actress. Then her career stopped. Simon explains: "I stopped it, well no, we mutually stopped it, because she went to a therapist who said, 'If you want to make this marriage work you've got to bond with the family and be there for them.'"

Eventually, she started working again but "she had to get out from being Mrs Neil Simon. It was quite a burden for an actress." He falters. "We never really discussed that things were bad. She said, 'I'm going, maybe I'll be back, maybe I won't.' She wasn't. Though it lasted seven years, did he regret the end of the marriage? "A lot," he says. "I think she did too."

It took him a year to propose to wife number three. "I was afraid to get married again. I'd lost one to death and one to divorce. It's not that I thought I'd picked wrong, because each time I selected wonderful women. All three of them were very energetic, charismatic,



Never say nisi... 'I've never given up on a marriage. I've never walked out on any relationship in my life'

fairly women; challenging, intelligent which means trouble some times. You know, this is not a pushover woman, I'm going to have to be on my toes all the time."

So what went wrong with number three? "It was Diane's decision. She needed space to deal with some things. I always hoped we would get back together again." They did. She swapped acting for journalism and after divorcing they promptly started dating again. A year later they remarried with a huge family ceremony at the couple's current home in Bel Air.

"I've never given up on a marriage. I've never walked

out on any relationship in my life," he says. Is that so he doesn't have to face any blame? "No, Marsha and I were equally to blame. The last time it was Diane's decision."

Though many of his plays feature marriage, he does not write about sex. Why not? "I write about it, but I don't write about it in marriages. In my opinion, I think sex is the greatest when you're in love with the person. It's extremely important. I don't think things get settled in the bedroom. But if sex doesn't work out then there's going to be a certain roaring around looking for it with someone else."

The thing about relation-

ships is you have to talk to each other. I mean really talk to each other.

For a funny man — and some of his plays are very funny — Simon does not laugh much. Today he stops at a wry grin which usually dissolves into an intense stare out of the window. He was once on the Johnny Carson Show. "The producer came up to me at half time and said 'Neil! Funnier!' I could have killed him. It's like saying 'sexier.'"

And with that he is off, on Concord, back to New York.

Chapter Two's run at the Gielgud Theatre has now been extended to July 13

I confidently predict it'll never happen... unless it does

Alan Hansen got it badly wrong with the kids of Man Utd. VINCENT HANNA on the long line of soothsayers who have had to swallow their words

WELCOME to the special day when wives grant temporary relief from football abuse, when the habitual observer have uncontrollable urges to drink beer from cans, make daft predictions and accost strangers with the words "Look, this will interest you..." Have a nice Cup Final. I won't.

As usual mine will be ruined by Jane, Rachel, and David — but you didn't hear that from me. I am permitted only occasional glimpses at the match, due to their stupid obsession with rehearsing A Week in Politics. Oh you may laugh, but any social infraction on my part and they turn off the television.

The papers have been picking on Alan Hansen for predicting last year that Manchester United couldn't win anything with kids — which they have. Don't blame him — in the same week the Manchester Eve-



temperament," he wrote, "he will never hold down a regular first team place in big time soccer."

Talent of that calibre knows not the boundaries of time or space. Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal poured one billion dollars down the drain of the 1976 Olympics. On his political tombstone they engraved his prediction: "The Olympic Games can no more have a deficit than a man can have a baby."

Some of you will remember the moment in

1987 when Mystic Meg Thatcher told the Commonwealth: "Anyone who thinks that the ANC is going to run South Africa is living in cloud cuckoo land."

Fewer may recall the Duke of Edinburgh's remark in 1965: "The Beatles, they're on the wane."

But who among you is in a position to confirm Emperor (Les) Ferdinand of Austria's put-down of the young Mozart when he first heard the Marriage of Figaro: "Too noisy... far too many notes."

I said that?

You never win anything with kids — Alan Hansen

A woman rang in earlier and said there was a heartiness on the way. Well, there isn't — Weatherman Michael Fish

Go back to your constituencies and prepare for government — David Steel at the Liberal Party conference in 1981

I bet he added: "You can never win anything with opera written by kids." Tell you what, I'll ask Des Lynam, he will remember. — This happens to be a good day for tall tales. I know because my friend Hugo — an actuary who thinks that if we don't take our daily dose of silly statistics, we'll fly off the earth into the sun — phoned me up. "Look, this will interest you," he said — just like the other 20,000 nutters wandering all over SW10.

Anyway he told me that

today is the birthday of Jackie Milburn who scored the finest ever goal in a Wembley Cup Final. And on May 11, 1720, was born Baron von Munchhausen. Among his battier tales was a prediction that Liverpool would win today — he was run out of town for it.

But bow your heads for the King of British soothsayers, Lord Kelvin. He was a physicist who invented the second law of aerodynamics and was even more distinguished than Alan Hansen — no, I jest. While President of the Royal Society Lord Kelvin solemnly declared that:

- Radio has no future.
- Heavier-than-air flying machines would never get off the ground.
- X-rays will prove to be a hoax.

So enjoy today's game — even if I can't, and remember that predictions are harmless, unless attempted on Match of the Day. Or at the battle of Spotsylvania.

I refer of course to Major General "Uncle John" Sedgwick. He was an American civil war hero, who confronted rebel forces on May 9, 1864, with the immortal words: "They couldn't hit an elephant at that dist..."

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The British mock Eurovision. But in Norway and Sweden, where they take the song contest seriously, it has sparked a diplomatic war. ANDREW CULF reports

Nul points no more

FROM her functional sixth-floor office at Norway's Ministry of Culture, Ase Kleveland grapples with the future of public service broadcasting. But this elegant 46-year-old Norwegian equivalent of Virginia Bottomley is in the public spotlight because of something she did 30 years ago. "It got a lot of attention," confesses Kleveland. "Norway used to be a very conservative country — my grandmother thought I had brought shame on the family with my pink pyjamas."

Kleveland's sequined and flared pink pyjamas now have pride of place in Oslo Folk Museum's special Eurovision Song Contest museum. As a 16-year-old girl, she was Norway's representative in the 1968 final in Luxembourg, with a ballad she describes as a mix of jazz and waltz, Int et er nytt Under Solen (Nothing New Under The Sun), winning third place, the highest placed Norwegian entry for 19 years. "It was a time of innocence. TV was in its early years, and the contest was still small," Kleveland remembers meeting Udo Jürgens, the man from Austria, who won. "There was a big scandal because he demanded his grand piano should be painted white and wanted chandeliers with real candles in them. He got away with it." She sees the contradiction between her present job at the Orwellian sounding ministry, promoting culture and Eurovision — feted throughout most of Europe as a celebration of naivety. "It is not important to the development of pop music, but it is fascinating as a TV programme."

With an anticipated audience in more than 40 countries of 300 million for next Saturday's contest, her conclusion is indisputable. The 6,000-seater Oslo Spektrum Stadium has been sold out for the final — and two full dress rehearsals. "In spite of all the criticism, not least from British journalists,

no one has been able to kill it," she says. In the grounds of the Folk Museum, 20-year-old Inger Elisabeth Solem, dressed in period costume in a timber-framed 1700s farmhouse, reveals how families gather for the contest, filling in charts in the local newspaper deciding on their own scores for the songs. "It's the show we Norwegians love to hate," she says. Everyone watches it for a good laugh because the songs are so bad.

Norway won itself a reputation as the Eurovision dunces in 1978 when, after a string of bad results, John Teigen scored an infamous nul points. But all that changed in 1985 when the duo Bobbysocks took Norway to victory in Gothenburg. The last time the UK won was in Dublin in 1981 with Bucks Fizz, helped by an energetic dance routine involving a partial striptease.

Victory in 1985 restored Norway's pride. Paul Mork, leader of the Department of Public Affairs at the Folk Museum, says "It was thought it was impossible for Norway to win, but something that had been a joke became very serious. After victory in 1985 Bobbysocks became one of our important exports — we were exporting Norway to the rest of Europe." Again, Kleveland was propelled centre stage — the 1986 contest was staged in Bergen, and she was given the job of presenting it. "I had the honour of Norway on my shoulders. I felt I would have to emigrate if anything went wrong," she recalls.

When Secret Garden triumphed last year with Nocturne, ending a run of three successive Irish victories, Norway encountered the jealousy of its Scandinavian neighbours Sweden.

Sweden did not give Norway any votes and Secret Garden's victory was followed by blanket xenophobic coverage in the Swedish newspapers. Eventually, Sweden's ambassador to



Oslo made a public apology on behalf of his countrymen, conceding the victory had been deserved.

Kleveland regarded victory as sweet. Norway, buoyed by the riches of North sea oil and gas, is enjoying unparalleled prosperity while Sweden is going through tough times. "It is a little hard for them to adjust to the fact that little brother is getting better off," she says. Norway will use next week to present itself as a modern industrial nation, in the biggest showcase since it hosted the

with 150 fellow Norwegian members of the Eurovision fan club, he will be watching preview tapes of all 23 songs for their own unofficial song contest. Later in the year they will stage another contest, voting on the songs placed second in each country's national heats. Hansen, a translator and law student, describes his bedroom as the sanctuary. It is more like a shrine to Eurovision. On shelves, neatly arranged in chronological order, are videos of all but two of the previous 40 contests, audio cassettes of most of Terry Wogan's 20 plus commentaries, most of the Norwegian national finals and an extensive archive of memorabilia, including the lyrics of all the songs.

He became hooked in 1974 when Abba won with Waterlo and has visited every final since 1983. Hansen says the cycle does not realise that every contest contains a rich diet of drama and anecdotes. "There is too much negative criticism in the media. It is like the critics in the West End theatre in London — they kill for pleasure. It is the same with Eurovision. It is a stigma, there is a kind of journalistic cliché."

Over at the headquarters of NRK, the Norwegian equivalent of the BBC, the contest is threatening to break the bank; more than 500 people are working on the three-hour extravaganza, a programme that will cost 24 million. Executive producer Odd Arvid Strömstedt has tried to modernise the con-

test, renaming it Euro Song and by using £1.2 million virtual reality graphics for the hour-long climactic voting ritual. Strömstedt was a risky choice for the job with his background in producing rock shows. He confesses: "I normally hate the music."

Its main presenter, Morten Harket, the lead singer from the group A-Ha has similar reservations, but he'll be joined on stage by the sobering influence of NRK's Washington correspondent, Ingrid Bryn. Preparations almost went awry a fortnight ago when a hotel strike threatened Norway's ability to cope with an influx of 1,500 Eurovision delegates and hangers-on. But NRK was inundated with offers from Oslo residents to accommodate the singers, particularly the



UK's Australian-born Gina G. Her entry, O Ooh-Aah, Just A Little Bit, is among the fancied entrants, but so too is Norway's, with the reappearance of Elisebeth Andreassen, half of the former Bobbysocks. But even victory in the Eurovision is not an automatic passport to fame for a Norwegian.

Last year's singer Gimmlid Trinnreim was back at work three days after victory, ironing costumes for the open air displays at the Folk Museum. Meanwhile John Teigen, the man who had 15 attempts to represent his country in the final, has launched a successful career as TV commentator on the back of his nul points.

The Eurovision Song Contest is on Saturday May 18 at 8pm on BBC1 and Radio 2.

Those (few and far between) great British Eurovision moments



Fearl Carr & Teddy Johnson (Sing Little Birds), Wogan and Sonia (oh dear), Bucks Fizz (Making Your Mind Up), GHT Richard (Congratulations), Gina G (O Ooh-Aah, Just A Little Bit)

Cheesy wotsits

Television

Stuart Jeffries

A FEW years ago there was a dreadful film about American perceptions of Europe called National Lampoon's European Vacation. In one scene, the vacationing family were watching TV in their London hotel room. As they flicked between the three channels, each one was screening a documentary about cheese.

we have one more terrestrial channel and cheese counter after cheese counter of cable and satellite stations. But Friday night programming still has much to offer as that Monty Python cheese shop: "So you don't have any cheese, then." "Er, no." "Then I'm afraid I'm going to have to shoot you." From the offensive whiff of exploitative crime entertainment (988, Expert Witness, Crime Story) and the delicate aroma of full-fat horticulture (Gardeners' World, Garden Party), to the sickening fondue of state sitcoms, this is hard Cheddar for anyone who seeks nourishment. Or perhaps it's unfair to com-

plain about Friday evening schedules: after all there is Big Break. Just what viewers need after 5,000 hours of live snooker. It used to be different — there were once fine sitcoms, at least, which made Friday evenings worth staying in for. Cheers, Roseanne, Frasier, The Fast Show, the occasional episode of Ellen — hell, even Friends when it didn't involve the monkey. But now, there is so little of quality that the end of the excellent series of Father Ted (Channel 4) last night leaves us in pretty touch the same position as the alcoholic Father Jack. There he was, having

battled out from the doomed airliner with the plane's two parachutes (one for him, one for the drinks trolley), only to wind up 30,000 feet below dangling by his chute in a tree, with the drink just out of reach. Like him, our spirits have plummeted on Fridays, and wound up dangling frustratingly, cursing our ill-luck and moaning our demands: "Arse! Peck! Calor! Girls! Drink!" It's perhaps not a coincidence that Father Ted has only been going for a handful of episodes, while the current series of Roseanne and Cybill (both Channel 4) have been going for 57 years and will in fact never end. This series of Roseanne has been one too far: last week's episode set in Disney world seemed like a nice outing for the cast, but for no one else: this week,

about David being brainwashed when he joined the staff of a sunny theme park. The first of a new series of Murder Most Horrid (BBC3) was called Girl Friday — perhaps Dawn French could bring some wit to this desert island of Friday nights. But no. Part of the problem was that she was playing an omniscient PA to Nigel Havers's omniscient boss, Nigel Havers, Google Withers, Jennifer Saunders — never trust someone with a verb for a surname. Like French, his acting was an drama and his punchlines hum drum. But this six-part series is supposed to be a vehicle for

French, in which, each week, she brings another character to life. Unfortunately, her comic skills chiefly consist in cutesy mugging which, when wedded to Paul Smith's unusable script, does not make for refined entertainment. She is as much a character actor as Roseanne or Cybill Shepherd, both actresses so nearly playing themselves as to make the difference between their real selves and their screen personas negligible. BBC3 could remedy its comedy-lite status by returning The Larry Sanders Show and Seinfeld to Tuesday nights. Now the darts and snooker seasons are apparently over (do these things have seasons?), can we anticipate their return? Most likely, they're going to be postponed thanks to the looming Euro '98 football championships. Arse! Peck!

Reviews

THEATRE

Nuremberg Tricycle, London

ACT in the theatre is always gripping and Guardian journalist Richard Norton-Taylor's Nuremberg, an edited version of the War Crimes Trial, could hardly be more timely as Dushko Tadić takes the stand at the Hague for crimes against humanity. But while Nicholas Kent at the Tricycle deserves credit for the idea — and for producing one of the best theatre programmes I've ever seen — he has somewhat over-egged the pudding by commissioning three short plays on Haiti, Rwanda and former Yugoslavia. Taken together, they make for an exhausting four-hour evening. Nuremberg is so strong it could stand on its own. What emerges, as the defendants go on trial, is the variety of moral evasions they offer. Goring, although Hitler's designated successor, denies all knowledge of systematic liquidation policies. Field-Marshal Keitel, chief of staff of the Wehrmacht, takes refuge in the doctrine of military obedience. Alfred Rosenberg, a Nazi ideologue, hides behind semantic quibbles over the meaning of "Ausrottung" ("extermination"). Even on its own, Nuremberg raises a whole series of fascinating issues. By focusing on major war criminals, did the trial implicitly exonerate the whole bureaucracy of evil? Did the Allies sweep their own crimes under the carpet? And why has it

taken us 50 years to set up a comparable international court? These and other questions emerge from Norton-Taylor's skilfully-edited text and Kent's scrupulously realistic production: the confrontation of Colin Bruce's nervously sweating American prosecutor and Mark Penfold's coolly unfazed Michael Maxwell-Eyts with Michael Cochrane's arrogantly imperious Goebbels is first-rate. William Hoyland's Keitel memorably crumbles when confronted with self-implicating documentary evidence. Ideally, Nuremberg would be followed by a nighty debate about the issues involved. Instead it is preceded by three short "responses" dealing with its contemporary implications. One of these, Goran Stefanovsk's Ex-Yu about a woman seeking information about her father's suicide during the Balkan war, is genuinely haunting. Keith Reddin's Haiti also neatly dramatises the specific case of an American officer who was court-martialed for summarily executing prisoners from a Haitian jail. But Ferni Osofian's Reel, Rwanda does little more than recapitulate the appalling mass-laugher of Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Four plays together are a bit much to absorb at one go. But Nuremberg is indispensable and the Tricycle deserves praise for airing one of the key issues of our time: how we respond judicially to the horrors of genocide. [At the Tricycle, Kilburn (0171-326-1000) until June 8. Michael Billington

THEATRE

Edward II Bolton Octagon

THERE is not a red-hot poker to be seen in Laurence Till and Kate Raper's bold, impeccably acted, production that treats Marlowe's tragedy much more as a contemporary gay love story than as a history play. Edward (Raymond Coulthard) is killed not by a murderous Lighorn but by the ghost of Gaveston (Joseph Jones), who washes Edward's body and, in a final act of love, dispatches him with a kiss amid a shower of bloody rain. Such images are used to powerful effect in a production that respects the benefit of Es Devlin's striking tied design — part gay bath-house and part abattoir.

There are more shocks in store for Marlowe purists. But the insertion of several Billie Holiday numbers, sung by Pauline Black (sometimes performing in character as Edward's spurned wife Isabella and sometimes outside the action), is not an act of vandalism but has real creative purpose. The song Heart-ache may be a little obvious for the loveless Isabella but a terrific rendering of Strange Fruit as Gaveston gets the tar-and-patch treatment, under scores his outside status as a bit of a commoner and a gay. What the production lacks in sophistication it makes up for in accessibility. In a play where the giggle quotient can be high there was only rapt attention during the schools matinee I attended. [Until May 25. Box office: 01204 600651. Lyn Gardner

POP

Orbital De Montfort University, Leicester

DANCE music is the most innovative genre around, but Orbital are leaving that behind. Six years on from their rave smash Chains, the Hartnolls' recent hit The Box was the most sinister record ever in the Top 20, a neo-symphonic soundtrack of creaks and twangs. The duo have presented a multimedia experience, an aural/visual surround of giant screens, airborne projections, dark sides of planets and pulsating beams and best.

Images of clocks and metronomes emphasised the urgency of the melodies and a global sense of time running out: the word "uranium" appeared next to a human foetus, while elsewhere slogans such as "work" and "consume" provided gripping edutainment. But the music was writ large. Symphonic keyboard hooks crashed in like sun rays, breathtaking in their beauty. Just as it seemed that Orbital couldn't possibly take us further, they returned to their roots with a pulverising display of hi-energy techno. Utterly deserving of their standing ovation, Orbital are creating the soundtrack to a freer-thinking generation. Dave Simpson

Jock traps

Radio

Anne Karpf

HOW often can a radio station change its tune? Well, Talk Radio, the ailing national station barely 15 months old, is already in its third incarnation. Launched on a swirl of hype about the shockiness of its jocks, phase one ended with the ignominious dispatch of at least two of them, Caesar the Geezer and Al Kelly, whose schtick (as every sane person had predicted) didn't make the audience stick.

Phase two saw the excavation of a load of old jocks: Simon Bates, Jonathan King as well as the recruitment of a touch of gravitas (Trevor McDonald), with the aim of taking on the BBC, head to head. No sooner hired than fired: another new programme director pushed them (or they jumped), bringing in a new bunch of presenters, including the current breakfast show host, Paul Ross, brother of Jonathan. Hearing Ross for the first time is disconcerting, since he sounds uncannily like his sibling — the same voice (replete with soft "r"), fast-talking style, flin fanaticism. Ross's talent, one suspects, is for quick-thinking repartee, but he gets little chance to air it in this phone-in cum guest show. What he did display last week was toadyism on an intergalactic scale. His interview with Jeffrey Archer was so deferential that it makes him an early contender for Fawn of the Year. Archer was not only allowed to puff his "novelography" right down to the different prices at which it's selling but also to promote his own industry, life and political party without hindrance from Ross, until

'Awesome... the year's most must-see movie' THE KIDS A FILM BY LARRY CLARK 'BRILLIANT' Wake up your own mind 'MASTERPIECE' THE KIDS ARE ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM 17 MAY

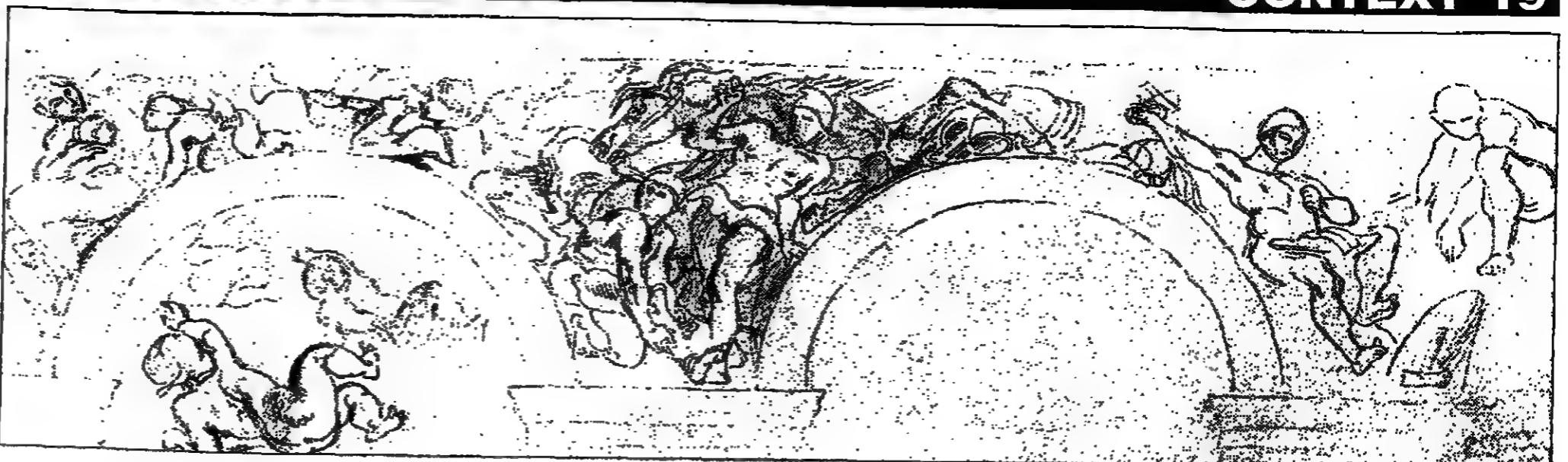
Mike Leigh's Secrets And Lies tipped for Palme D'Or Cannes 96 MICK LEIGH says Gillies Jacob, head of the Cannes festival, must be a strong candidate for the Palme D'Or this year. Possibly the British director of Naked, for which he was made Best Director two years ago, could do without such prognostications. But there's no doubt that Secrets And Lies, his new film, is the kind of work no international jury could ignore. It is not a state-of-the-nation epic like Naked, but a more intimate family drama, though Leigh might well argue that the state of families is as fundamentally important as the condition of the nations of which they are made up. The film tells what happens when a black woman (Marion Jean-Baptiste), who has lost her step-parents, tries to find her real mother and, after much effort, discovers her to be a put-upon white woman (Geraldine James) living with her boisterous street-cleaver daughter in a shabby terraced house in London. It's a profound shock for both of them. But this isn't so much a racial drama as an examination of the secrets and lies which inhibit the white woman's whole family — Timothy Spall plays the local photographer who represents the successful side, guiltily realising that he has neglected the woman who looked after him as a child. What happens when the black girl is introduced into the equation forms the core of the film. The performances are superb and Blenheim, in particular, must be among the favourites for the Best Actress award. But the confidence of the film-making, the warmth of its observation and the way it holds itself firmly on the edge of parody and something much profounder makes Secrets And Lies exceptional. True, it is a little too long at two hours 20 minutes, and the final declaration that we are all in pain but unable to share it with each other seems a bit too obvious. But you can ignore small flaws when someone produces a film that entertains so well yet still says so much that's important. Derek Malcolm

July 20 1998

The Guardian Saturday May 11 1996

This delightful sketch by Delacroix and the other pictures shown here were bought for the nation in 1918 by

Maynard Keynes, left. As they go on show, RICHARD SHONE tells how Keynes snapped up bargains from Degas's personal collection and did rather well himself



THE DUNCAN GRANT COLLECTION, Charleston, Sussex

Keynes's economies of sale

Do buy Ingres Portrait of Self, Cézanne, Corot, even at cost of losing others

SORUNS an exhortative telegram sent by the young painter Duncan Grant to his friend John Maynard Keynes on March 23 1918, in the final gloomy months of the first world war. On a brief visit to London from Sussex, where Grant was working as a farm labourer, he had seen a copy of the catalogue to the forthcoming sale in Paris of the collection of Edgar Degas who had died the previous year. The sale contained not only Degas's huge collection of works by other artists but also the contents of his studio which included an immense quantity of his paintings, particularly early ones, many late pastels of dancers and women bathing and innumerable drawings and studies from all periods. Degas was an incorrigible hoarder and disliked selling his own works as much as he liked amassing those by his heroes and contemporaries. His friend Walter Sickert described the three floors of the artist's Paris apartments — "one to live in, one above for his collection, and, at the top of the house, his studio. I have sometimes in the second apartment threaded my way with him, by the light of a candle, through the forest of easels standing so close to

Degas's *On the Beach*, Manet's *Music in the Tuilleries Gardens* and much else but these (time-shared with the National Gallery of Ireland) hung at the Tate Gallery. The Degas sale surely offered an opportunity to enrich the collection with works that might well go relatively cheaply, considering the unpropitious circumstances of the various circumstances of the sale. Keynes was greatly taken by his friend's idea. A few days later, after dinner in London, he, Grant and Vanessa Bell pored over the catalogue, their mouths watering over the black-and-white reproductions of works by Ingres and Cézanne. The next day Keynes set to work using all his famous powers of persuasion. He first approached Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Law was amused by his request — Keynes never usually recommended the spending of money — but was won round by his argument. Keynes stressed the financial advantages, as against the aesthetic ones, of the government buying at the sale. British war-time loans to the French were "colossal" and there was small chance of seeing their return when even the repayment of interest was doubtful. Why not get the French government to place the necessary sum in francs into the British Embassy account in Paris? By that means, we would in effect pay nothing for any works purchased, a solution in which Keynes delighted. It would also avoid the likely criticism of spending public money on pictures at a time of national hardship. Meanwhile, Lord Curzon, a member of the cabinet and a trustee of the National Gallery, supported the idea and, under his guidance, a letter was sent to the Treasury asking for £20,000, signed by Charles Holmes, the gallery's director.

At the third Degas sale in April 1919 Keynes, then attending the Paris Peace Conference, bought four large chalk drawings 'to cheer himself up'

each other that we could hardly pass between them, each one gazing under a life-sized portrait by Ingres, or holding early Corot. White-bearded, nearly blind for several years, ("as beautiful as Homer... That doesn't cheer me up" he quipped), eventually wandering in mind and hardly conscious of the war, Degas died in Paris aged 83. For years he had been a frenzied collector, particularly of works by Ingres, Delacroix, Corot and Daubigny from an earlier generation, and by his own contemporaries such as Manet, Cézanne and Gauguin. There were nearly 2,000 lithographs by Daubigny, all of Manet's prints, superb Japanese colour woodcuts by Utamaro and Hiroshige, etchings by Whistler, Mary Cassatt and the great Punch artist Charles Keene, paintings by Boudin and Pissarro and Van Gogh. The quality was high; he had the capacity for acquiring works that spoke of the essential character of each artist. His one Sisley, for example, of the Seine in flood, is entirely representative. And what could be more quintessential than his small Cézanne of seven apples on a table-top? Relatively few artists are systematic collectors. They have neither the time nor, in most cases, the money. But some of the greatest figures have built highly personal collections, from Rembrandt's board of Italian paintings and drawings to Picasso's treasures by Degas, Cézanne, Rousseau, Renoir and Matisse.

On March 21 Duncan Grant was working in the fields at Charleston in Sussex when he was handed a telegram from Keynes: "Money secured for pictures." Two days later Keynes wrote to Vanessa Bell, also at Charleston, telling her of his "whirlwind coup" and that he would be able to attend the sale himself as he was going to Paris as part of a Treasury delegation of the Inter-Allied Council in International Finance. To avoid publicity, Holmes would travel out as a member of the delegation. His autobiography conveys the infectious excitement of his mission. The National Gallery's purchase grant had been stopped since the start of the war. Now he had an unexpected £20,000 to play with. Keynes's success raised cheers in Bloomsbury ("I think a feast of our pig will be one of your rewards," Vanessa Bell wrote) though there was some worry that Roger Fry was unavailable to discuss possible purchases with Holmes whose eye seemed set on the older masters in the sale rather than on the Post-Impressionists. It was then that Duncan Grant sent off the last-minute telegram quoted above.

Nearer our own time artists such as Henry Moore and Jasper Johns have been richly acquisitive but none has touched Degas in scale and quality. So huge was his estate that its sale had to be divided into four parts — two in the spring of 1918 and two a year later (which consisted of Degas's own works on paper). Fired by the illustrations in the catalogue, Duncan Grant tackled Maynard Keynes, then at the Treasury, over the possibility of the government drafting money to the National Gallery to acquire some of the works. There were relatively few paintings by nineteenth-century French artists at Trafalgar Square at that time (and nothing by Ingres or Delacroix). The great bequest of 1917 from Sir Hugh Lane, who had drowned in the Lusitania, gave us Renoir's *Umbrellas*,

asking for £20,000, signed by Charles Holmes, the gallery's director. On March 21 Duncan Grant was working in the fields at Charleston in Sussex when he was handed a telegram from Keynes: "Money secured for pictures." Two days later Keynes wrote to Vanessa Bell, also at Charleston, telling her of his "whirlwind coup" and that he would be able to attend the sale himself as he was going to Paris as part of a Treasury delegation of the Inter-Allied Council in International Finance. To avoid publicity, Holmes would travel out as a member of the delegation. His autobiography conveys the infectious excitement of his mission. The National Gallery's purchase grant had been stopped since the start of the war. Now he had an unexpected £20,000 to play with. Keynes's success raised cheers in Bloomsbury ("I think a feast of our pig will be one of your rewards," Vanessa Bell wrote) though there was some worry that Roger Fry was unavailable to discuss possible purchases with Holmes whose eye seemed set on the older masters in the sale rather than on the Post-Impressionists. It was then that Duncan Grant sent off the last-minute telegram quoted above. The delegation arrived in Paris in time for Holmes, Keynes and Austen Chamberlain, leader of the Finance Mission, to view the sale at the Galerie Georges Petit. Holmes had to contend not only with the unfamiliarity of French auction procedures, the Seylla of Keynes whispering Cézanne in one ear and the Charlybids of Chamberlain dissuading him from an El Greco he liked in the other, but with the alarming possibility of a bomb being dropped on all sides, and people began to leave the room. "Big Bertha — the Germans' biggest gun — was in action. Thus in a somewhat depleted crowd Holmes quickly secured Ingres's *Por-*



Portrait of Monsieur Norvins for 70,000 francs (about £2,700) — much less than expected — and, against strong competition from the Louvre, bought Delacroix's great full-length portrait of Baron Schwiter.

England, the pictures in a massive crate deposited at Trafalgar Square shortly before midnight. Keynes arrived at Charleston after dinner, having been dropped by Austen Chamberlain in a government car at the bottom of the long dark lane to the farmhouse. He told his friends "he had left a Cézanne by the roadside." Vanessa Bell later wrote to Roger Fry: "Duncan rushed off to get it and you can imagine how exciting it all was!... The Cézanne is really amazing... It's so extraordinarily solid and alive. It's the little one of seven apples that we liked so much, very small indeed." Whether Keynes had planned to buy for himself at the sale or whether it was an impulsive move is unknown but, besides the Cézanne, he also bought an Ingres nude study, a small painting and a pencil drawing by Delacroix of a study for a frieze in

the Palais Bourbon, which he gave to Duncan Grant and which may still be seen at Charleston. A painting by Cézanne in private hands in England was rare indeed: there was none in a public collection (and wouldn't be until 1933). Years later, the writer David Garnett, also at Charleston on that memorable evening, told me that Lord Curzon had more or less forbidden Holmes to bid for a Cézanne. Such antipathy in official circles continued for some time and the Tate Gallery even refused a loan of two Cézannes three years later. So Keynes's small but perfectly formed still life became an object of pilgrimage by young painters such as Mark Gertler and Edward Wolfe. Its talisman status impressed even Virginia Woolf whose usual attitude to modern painting was one of amused scepticism. She was present

regrettable is the timidity of his colleagues at the Tate Gallery in the 1920s and 1930s who steadfastly turned their faces against earlier twentieth-century art. In 1965 I was lucky enough to be taken by Duncan Grant to see Keynes's collection at Tilton, the house he had occupied across the fields from Charleston. Lady Keynes — the great Russian dancer Lydia Lopokova — led a reclusive life there. I was surprised to find many of the more valuable pictures skied on the drawing-room walls, very difficult to see. Apparently it was to thwart burglars; they couldn't reach them. There was Saurat's glowing study for *La Grande Jatte*, a Degas nude study hung precariously. Upstairs on the landing were shelter drawings by Henry Moore and a big Ivon Hitchens landscape. In Keynes's bedroom, the little Apples and the Ingres nude, Lopokova supplied a bottle of Liebfraumilch — it was 3.30 in the afternoon — and it was then that I heard about the Vente Degas — about Maynard's powers of persuasion, Holmes shaving off his beard ("not that anyone in Paris would have recognised him") and the Cézanne in the hedge. With habitual modesty, Grant omitted his crucial role in the whole affair and Lopokova reminded him, with habitual mischievousness, that it was indeed he who had "Maynard round his little finger." "Well, yes," Grant conceded. "I suppose I was to blame."



Deux Danseuses en maillot, Degas (King's College, Cambridge); Baron Schwiter, left, (detail) Delacroix (National Gallery)

when Vanessa Bell showed it for the first time to Roger Fry: "Roger very nearly lost his senses," she wrote to a friend. "I've never seen such a slight of intoxication. He was like a bee on a sunflower... [The apples] really are very superb. The longer one looks the larger and heavier and greener and redder they become." At the third Degas sale in April 1919 Keynes, then attending the Paris Peace Conference, bought four large chalk drawings by the master himself "to cheer himself up". Duncan Grant later told me so horrified he was by negotiations he regarded as wicked. The Degas sale marked the real beginning of Keynes's collection. Over the next three or four years he purchased paintings by Seurat, Cézanne, Degas, Braque and Matisse and drawings by Ficcino and Medigliani as well as numerous works by English painters such as Walter Sickert and Matthew Smith. Most of these were bought at the insistence of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell.

far his personal feelings affected his purchases. He had never taken the leap into modernism that had turned his friend and contemporary Roger Fry into a hero of the young. He admired Manet, held Degas "a great artist" and thought enough of Gauguin to bid on several at the sale; unfortunately he secured only the modest *Vase of Flowers* which sadly remains, nearly 80 years later, the only Gauguin owned by the National Gallery. Not to have bought Cézanne may have been unforgivable in Bloomsbury and can certainly be viewed as shortsighted. Several major public European collections already owned work by him. But for Holmes, it would have been uncharacteristically daring. On the evidence, he acquitted himself well. Much more

Richard Shone is associate editor of the Burlington Magazine. Degas As A Collector, a representative exhibition of paintings once owned by Degas, is at the National Gallery from May 22 to August 28. On with it, for the same period, is Degas: Beyond Impressionism, late paintings by Degas from collections around the world.

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The Guardian

Serge Chermayeff

Master of modernism

SERGE Chermayeff, who has died aged 85, was the last of the great modernist architects who practised in Britain in the 1930s. By the end of that decade he had joined the drift westwards to the United States, following Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer and his own one-time London partner Eric Mendelsohn. Like them he fell easily into the role of architectural guru there.

His best known building is the beautiful and buoyant De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, designed in 1935 in partnership with Mendelsohn and recently restored. For many people in Britain this was their first sight of a dazzling clean-cut edifice in concrete, glass and steel. It was the first in a building in the country in international modernist style. The Pavilion was built as a modern pleasure palace by an architect who took his pleasures seriously. Chermayeff was the most flamboyant of modernists, a lover of theatre, jazz, adventuring, sunbathing and sex.

At the time of the Bexhill Pavilion competition there were bitter attacks from within the profession that the winners were two emigre architects at a time when work for British architects was scarce. There were also protests from the fascists. Mendelsohn had indeed just recently arrived in Britain from Berlin. But the Russian-born Chermayeff had in fact been sent over from Moscow by his parents for an English education at the age of 10. This was an old Harrovian who had had to waive his place at Trinity College, Cambridge, when the Revolution came.

Chermayeff survived hard times with imaginative flair, taking a job with the *Annals* and *Press* in London, working as a gigolo at the Barclay and Savoy, and opening a dance hall in Buenos Aires. Like a character in Waugh he lived by his charm, his quick wit and twinkling eyes. In 1924 he changed his name from Issakovitch to Chermayeff

and took British citizenship in 1928.

Chermayeff's big break was the 1929 *Modern Furnishing* exhibition at Waring & Gillow in Oxford Street. He was then married to the beautiful and well-connected Barbara Maitland May whose father introduced him to Lord Waring. Chermayeff drifted into design without conventional training, like his most brilliant London modernist contemporary Wells Coates. He was made director of the modern art department at a moment when Waring & Gillow, up till then entirely loyal to the three-piece suite, set out to create a new style that combined 'simplicity and beauty with good proportion and a more generous acknowledgment of colour'. Chermayeff, working with the French designer Paul Folot, introduced to bemused Oxford Street shoppers an English version of deco moderne, as shown in the 1925 Paris exhibition.

His magnificent Ruhlmann-styled cabinet in mahogany and ebony dating from this period is in Brighton Art Gallery and Museum and there is a fine example of the art deco rugs he designed for the Wilton Royal Carpet Company in the V&A. In 1930 Chermayeff designed the interior of the Cambridge Theatre, one of the first modern theatres in Britain, and also designed some of the sets for the opening revue at which Beatrice Lillie starred.

CHERMAYEFF described the 1930s as "the most rewarding period of my life." It was then he met Eric Gill, whose professional rigour and political iconoclasm influenced him deeply. With Gill, Amédée Ozenfant, H T Wildenfeld, and the composer Paul Hindemith, Chermayeff made heady plans for founding an *Académie Européenne Méditerranéenne* on a site above the bay formed by Cap Negre and the Pointe du Rosignol. This was to be a multi-disciplinary Bauhaus-by-the-sea.

At the same time Chermayeff was making lasting

friendships with such contemporary British artists as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, John Piper and Eric Ravilious. He had opened his own architectural office in the Pantheon in Oxford Street and fell under the spell of new materials and new methods of construction. With Raymond McGrath, Wells Coates, and Mansfield Forbes, a famously eccentric English don at Cambridge, he founded the 20th-Century Group, dedicated to creating new, more fluent and exhilarating social structures, making use of the new technology.

His first important official commission was for the new BBC building in London in 1932. Studios were designed by three modernist architects — Chermayeff, Coates and McGrath — inevitably known as "the three musketeers." Their work was not universally approved. Once it was discovered that the clinical decor of Chermayeff's Talks Room was upsetting the performers the design was amended to give it the reassuring comfort of the library in an archetypal English country house.

His work for the BBC brought Chermayeff into contact with leading politicians and scientists; Bertrand Russell, J D Bernal, Alfred Baruch, J B S Haldane, Julian Huxley. He was always eloquent on the need for greater interaction between art and science. Chermayeff's furniture was now becoming functional and minimalist. The Fel steel frame and canvas stacking chairs, still surviving in church halls all over Britain, were designed originally for the BBC. He and Coates designed, for E K Cole, the Ecko wireless receiving sets in moulded brown or black Bakelite that, 40 years later, became collectors' items, perhaps the most evocative of products of that time.

Chermayeff's links with the European modernists had begun in the late 1920s when he travelled on the Continent for Waring & Gillow. They became increasingly important in the 1930s as Chermayeff de-



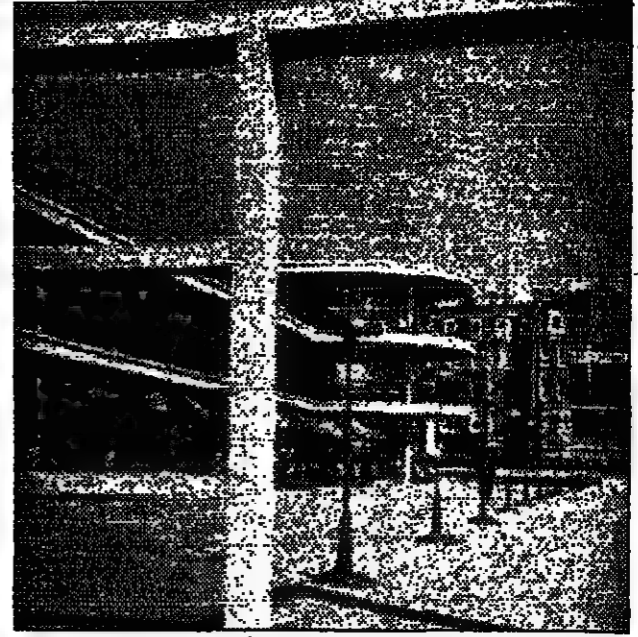
Serge Chermayeff... architect of movement and light

PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL LISBETH

veloped his mature style. The most powerful influence was that of Eric Mendelsohn, German architect of the Einstein Tower in Potsdam and the Shokken department stores in Stuttgart and Chemnitz. Mendelsohn was an innovator in steel and concrete structures with a particular Expressionist fluency.

When Mendelsohn came to England in 1933, a refugee from the Nazi regime, he and Chermayeff became partners. The RIBA ruling that foreign architects could be employers but not employees resulted in

other such modernist pairings, the most notable of which was Gropius and Maxwell Fry. The Bexhill Pavilion bears the Mendelsohn imprimatur but claims that it was wholly Mendelsohn's are erroneous. The auditorium and much of the interior furnishing was Chermayeff's work. The Cohen house in Old Church Street, Chelsea, (now defaced by a Norman Foster conservatory) was another remarkable example of their short-lived but productive partnership. After Mendelsohn's departure to the US Chermayeff designed laboratories for ICI at Birkely in Manchester and London offices for W & A Gilbey. He worked closely with the German emigre structural engineer Felix Samuely, evolving new solutions to industrial problems of noise abatement and air conditioning. From the mid-1930s Chermayeff's reputation rested mainly, however, on his increasingly sought modernist domestic work. His own house, Bentley Wood at Hailand in Sussex, was described by John Sum-



An edifice in concrete, glass and steel... the De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea

PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL ROTH

ner as "the most aristocratic building of the decade." This is a long low building, glass and timber, rising like a modernist temple from a pediment of brick. Bentley Wood was a gathering point for the work of many of Chermayeff's friends. Henry Moore's *Reclining Figure*, at the intersection of the terrace and the lawn, was intended to provide "a kind of focal point of all the horizontals." Bentley Wood served as a turning point not just for Chermayeff as an architect but also for Moore as a sculptor of outdoors.

HE DESIGNED some superb flats in that great age of the London flat dweller, including one in Mayfair for Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, founders of the arts educational community at Dartington and modernist connoisseurs. His own favourite pre-war interior was the flat at Marble Arch designed for Commander Edward Heywood-Lonsdale, flag-lieutenant to Lord Louis Mountbatten.

In 1940 Chermayeff left London in great bitterness. His office had closed down for lack of work. He had been rejected when he attempted to enlist. At the outset of war he had been responsible for drawing up a *Plan for Air Raid Precautions: A Practical Policy*, and in a farewell article he drew the bleak conclusion that "little has been gained in our lifetime through technical ability or newly developed social conscience, for lack of opportunity to apply them intelligently, except possibly for the erection of shelters fit for heroes to survive in." In 1946, he became an

American citizen, the second time he had shed a skin. Chermayeff became professor of design at Brooklyn College in New York, and was then appointed president and director of the Institute of Design in Chicago in succession to Lazlo Moholy-Nagy, another ex-Bauhaus emigre. In 1962 he moved to Harvard as professor of architecture after the retirement of Walter Gropius, and from 1962 he taught at Yale. Both his sons made their careers in American visual arts: Peter Chermayeff as an architect and Ivan Chermayeff as a graphic designer in the influential partnership Chermayeff and Geisler.

Serge Chermayeff was a charismatic if irascible teacher: an ex-student described him as "modernist to aesthetics, impeccably snobbish in dress and manners, radical or at least radical chic in politics." His closest modernist counterpart is Richard Rogers, a student of his at Yale, who absorbed the professional arrogance and glamour. Chermayeff's views about the city and his definition of private, party private and overtly public spaces reverberate through Rogers's *White Paper* of 1959. Chermayeff was a Wyndham Lewis "Architectural Where is your vortex?" Serge Chermayeff was perhaps the supreme example in the 20th century of architect as vorticalist. He was in many ways an architectural oddity, the irrepressibility, like his finest buildings, full of movement, light and hope.

Flora MacCarthy

Serge Chermayeff, architect and designer, born October 8, 1900; died May 8, 1996

Harry Diamond

Firebrand at Stormont

THE DEATH of Harry Diamond, aged 87, breaks the last link with the generation of "Wee" Joe Devlin and the old Home Rule Party in the north of Ireland. As a Devlin supporter, Diamond was in favour of the nationalists' policy of "creeping abstention", attending the Stormont parliament when it was felt that Catholic interests were at stake. He would come to know the grand chamber of the Stormont building very well, but first there was the traditional Irish rite of passage — exile and work in England — to be undertaken.

When Diamond was 21 he became one of the 34 members of the Poor Law Board, elected by ratepayers from local government wards. Poor Law guardians administered unemployment relief at a time of grinding poverty and deep unrest in Belfast. The shipyards were idle, one in four was out of work, and thousands of workers dug trenches in the streets for grocery chits of little value. Most of Diamond's colleagues were reviled figures

in west Belfast's narrow, grimy streets. Faddy Devlin, who eventually took him to Stormont, recalled that the guardians were "usually portly men with gold watchchains stretched across their ample bellies, spreading terror in the district."

In a moment of Protestant-Catholic solidarity, 50,000 members of the working classes found common cause in their opposition to the Poor Law handouts and marched by torchlight through the city, led by bands from both green and orange traditions which repeatedly played *Yes We Have No Bananas* in case their traditional tunes gave offence. Relief payments were increased by 50 per cent.

It was this which converted Diamond to socialism. During the same period he was also a member of the Belfast Board of Guardians and once threw a doormat at its chairman. He spent two months in Crumlin Road jail after a police baton charge in the city's Smithfield Square had broken up a meeting protesting at the de-



Harry Diamond: outspoken

velopment without trial of 100 young republicans. Diamond was a showmaker by trade, but in 1937 he found work as a fitter in England, staying for six years and becoming involved in trade unionism.

Back in Belfast he formed the Republican Labour Party with Gerry Fitt and was elected to Stormont in 1945 to represent Belfast Central (Lower Falls) — his idol Joe Devlin's former seat. His election coincided with a brief flourishing of the labour movement in Northern Ireland as a force which might challenge the Ulster Unionism's hegemony. "At the time we were described as two one-man parties joining up to make one two-man party," recalled Lord Fitt. Diamond represented his

constituency for the next 24 years, under a variety of guises including Eire Labour, Socialist Republican and Republican Labour. Although his strong republican and socialist views mellowed as he grew older, the silver-haired politician was thrown out of the Stormont chamber almost weekly for condemning the B-Specials police and for his repeated references to "foreign royalty".

By the late 1960s, as the unrest in Belfast began to grow, the young and ambitious Faddy Devlin had Diamond's constituency in his sights and cruelly put his rival down, accusing him of ignoring the new civil rights movement. In February 1969 he unseated Diamond by 726 votes. The historian Eamon Phoenix remembered Diamond with more kindness, describing him as the voice of Belfast's working-class Catholics in Stormont with "a much deserved reputation as an outspoken critic of the regime. He was a very charming man and a great raconteur."

On the day after his defeat Harry Diamond retired to his holiday home on the Antrim coast — and stayed there. "You could say I'm awaiting Gabriel's trumpet very pleasantly," he observed. In 1982 — at the age of 83 — he remarried and is survived by his second wife, Amy.

David Starvoak

Harry Diamond, nationalist MP, born May 10, 1908; died May 7, 1996

Weekend Birthdays

Helena Kennedy, feminist, radical QC, campaigner and media star, was born 46 years ago tomorrow into a large Glasgow Irish Catholic working class family, and she's been demonstrating her gift of the gab ever since. Kennedy lends her energies to a dazzling array of leftist and women's causes, while juggling a successful practice at the criminal bar and three children. She currently chairs Charter 88, the body campaigning for a new constitution for Britain. One of the few barristers of her generation to lack a university degree, she has made up for it by amassing a clutch of honorary doctorates, and the chancellorship of Oxford Brookes University. Her outspoken criticism of some of the Bar's outmoded practices, its racism and sexism, could have made her en-



emies and harmed her career. Instead, the Bar has moved, introducing policies to outlaw discrimination. She has become a guru for young women lawyers, still battling to dent the glass ceiling. Friends are surprised that the lifelong Labour supporter and keen New Labourite has never sought a parliamentary seat. But she is widely tipped as one of the new peers Tony

Blair plans to appoint to the House of Lords, to implement Labour's post-election reform of the upper House.

Today's birthdays: Lady Rachel Billington, writer, 54; Carla Borg Bley, jazz composer, bandleader, pianist, 58; Sir Rhodes Boyson MP, former Conservative minister, 71; Beryl Brydon, jazz singer, 78; Eric Burdon, rock star, 56; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Rascal Electronics, bass guitarist, 37; Prof Antony Hewish, radio astronomer, 70; John Farrort, snooker player, 33; Jeremy Faxman, television presenter, 46; Sir Ian Percival QC, former Solicitor-General, 78; Ian Redpath, former cricketer, 58; Natasha Richardson, actress, 33; Mort Sahl, comedian, 66; Judith Weir, composer, 42; Monty Woodhouse, Hellenophile, author, former MP, Greek resistance organiser, 79.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: Burr Bacharach, composer, conductor, 68; Alan Ball, football manager, 51; Ian Dury, rock singer, 54; James Plaseo Grant, director, Unicef, 74; Susan Hampshire, actress and dyslexic campaigner, 54; Dr Mary Harris, president, Women's Engineering Society, 45; Michael Ignatieff, 48; Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, 78; Chris Patten, governor-general of Hong Kong, 32; Rosalind Savill, director, the Wallace Collection, 45; Deborah Warner, theatre director, 37; Steve Winwood, rock singer, 48.

Death Notices

MOLLAH, Hilary (Katherine), mother of Amanda, Eddie and Becky and sister of Barbara, Carol Ann and David. On May 8th at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, after long illness, faced great pain and courage. Funeral Service to be held at St. Mark's Church, Newcastle, on Monday May 13th at 2pm followed by cremation. Flowers may be sent to J. Rymor, Church St, Newcastle. Donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Disease Society.

REED, Stanley William, On the 6th May 1996, Stanley William Reed, Director of the British Film Institute 1964-1972, much loved husband of Ailsa, father of John, Penelope and Caroline and grandfather of Clive. Stanley's funeral will be held on Wednesday 15th May, Church of St. Andrew, 15th May, 11.30am. Donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Disease Society.

Do place your announcement telephone 011 713 4567 Fax 011 713 4129

Face to Faith

The enemy within us all

Madeline Butling

NEWs that a major City bank had hired a management consultant to introduce Japanese intellectual techniques intrigued me. One doesn't usually imagine banking and Zen Buddhism having much in common. This consultant had major corporations queuing up for his service to "uplift business performance and the human spirit."

Sid Joynson is an unlikely character to be pioneering Zen Buddhism on the factory floor. A Yorkshire businessman with a smattering of knowledge about Japan, he sparks ideas like a faulty Catherine wheel, all concerned with the need for everyone to respect each other.

It would be easy to dismiss Joynson as a nutcase, but for the fact that whatever he is

listening to Joynson, I was struck by parallels with Gloria Steinem's quixotic book, *Revolution From Within*. This was the feminist celebrity saying her political activism had been too simplistic in its assumptions that demos and marches would win women rights.

What women needed was a kind of internal psychotherapeutic renaissance to build up self-esteem; the enemy wasn't out there but inside yourself. What Steinem and Joynson both identified in very different arenas is the enormous issue of self-worth. This afflicts all of us in every aspect of our lives — how do we constitute a sense of our usefulness, our likeability, our irreplaceability? With the decline of Christianity, people no longer can turn to the concept of a loving, personal God and the uniqueness and sanctity of each individual life. This

leaves us with a vacuum into which people have placed three alternatives: their jobs, their relationships, and their imagination.

Jobs: a precarious basis for something as important as your sense of self-worth, given an increasingly insecure labour market. Relationships: the divorce statistics speak for themselves. Imagination: the fragile and continuous process of interpreting your life.

What makes this mess virtually unbearable for most people are two cultural trends. First, the proliferation of ever more exacting expectations of ourselves in the media. Are you sexy? Are you thin? Do you have a great job? A great partner? Lots of friends? And on top of that comes the consumerism which incessantly implicates your incompleteness without this car, that sofa, holiday, home or insurance policy. Second, our culture is modelled on competitiveness. But this pits us one against the other in the loneliest kind of individualism. Harness it to that proliferation of expectations, and in every area of our

lives we are competing; are we thinner, happier, sexier than everyone else? We come to believe that self-worth is achieved at the denigration of everyone else.

It is no surprise that millions of us flock to the therapist's couch, or that millions more just give up, ground

down into an apathy close to despair. Give people back their self-respect and they are quite literally born again.

Fecan, a training project run by evangelical Christians for the unemployed in a depressed London borough, has an astonishing success rate (without converting them). Their

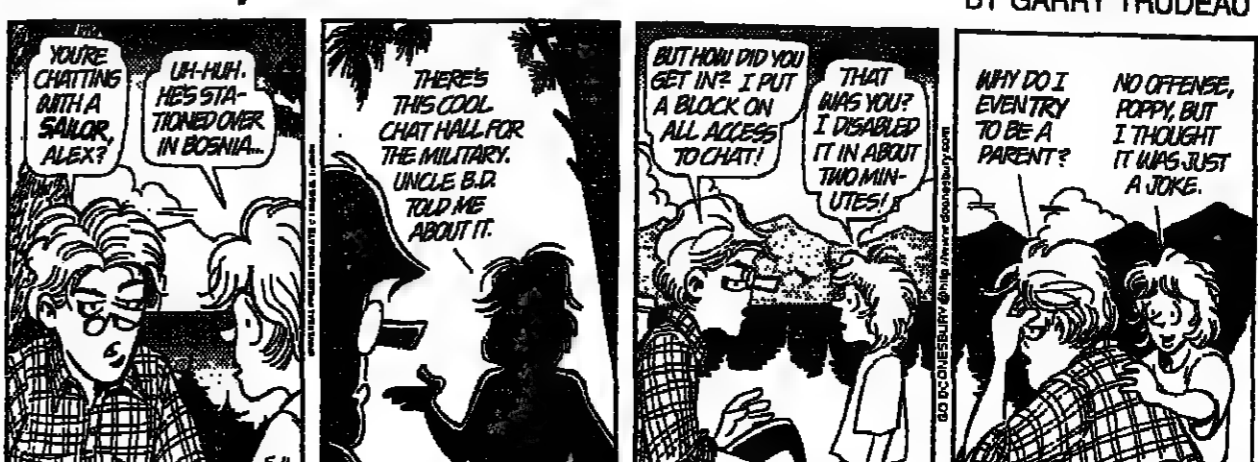
method, they maintain, is simple, treat people with real respect and love.

I am brought back to one of the most striking points Joynson made. He referred to the play *Pygmalion* — the Greek version, not G B Shaw's. The drama is that a man loved a statue of a woman so much

that the gods had mercy on him and decided to make it into a real, live woman. His conclusion: "If you love someone you will make them into what you believe them to be."

Madeline Butling is the Guardian's religious affairs editor.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم

Savers go for unit trusts

Cashpoints

NATIONAL Savings has kicked off the new financial year with net receipts of £456 million, down from £708 million last month. The investors' favourite product was once again the Pensioners Bond which contributed £410 million net. Premium Bonds pulled in £164 million net.

THE unit trust sector seems to have made a dramatic recovery. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUIF) has announced record net sales to private investors of £2.01 billion for first quarter this year, up from £530 million this time last year. In March alone savers put £990 million in such Pepsale trusts. The association has produced a free guide to unit trusts and tax: call The Unit Trust Information Service on 0181-207-1361.

SPECIALIST information service Eurofax Communications has come up with a novel scheme which helps distressed borrowers whose houses have been repossessed to get the best possible price. Its Disk-a-Tax gives details about price and location on newly-repossessed homes direct from the lender. Prospective buyers get a menu of options enabling them to access lists of houses according to region and price. For details call 0396-423500. Charges are 39p per minute at peak rates and 49p per minute at other times.

BIRMINGHAM Midshires Building Society has raised the minimum deposit needed to open a savings account to £1,000 from £500. The society claims the move was thrust upon it by 50,000 savers who opened new accounts last April, in anticipation of the society merging or converting to a public company to trade as a bank.

THE NatWest has come up with a mortgage fixed at 7.99 per cent until May 1, 2002. For borrowers with the usual 5 per cent deposit, the Bradford & Bingley Building Society has a two-year fixed-rate mortgage at 5.25 per cent or a three-year deal fixed at 6.75 per cent.

The prospect of a Tory election defeat no longer sends a chill through the City. IAN WYLIE looks ahead

New Labour, new Britain, new friends

A GENERAL election and a change of government — could come sooner than expected if John Major's one-vote majority disappears after next week's debate on the Government's handling of the beef crisis.

But, in contrast to the run-ups to previous general elections, a growing number of tax investment advisers are talking investors not to panic, as a Labour government might actually be good for their financial health.

If and when Labour does reveal more of its tax plans, there is unlikely to be a repeat of the "double whammy" that killed its hopes at the last election. Investors are also being warned to steer clear of scare-mongering advisers who simply want to "churn" portfolios to earn extra commission.

"It won't be the doomsday scenario that many advisers are portraying," says David Oliver, tax partner with accountant Arthur Andersen. For all the hysteria whipped up in recent weeks, Labour has not, as yet, revealed any plan to increase income tax or capital gains tax for middle income earners, or to scrap Peps and Tesses. What it has said is that there will be no return to previous high-tax, high-spend policies.

There is a lot of scare-mongering going on as advisers try to peddle their tax avoidance schemes," says Moira Elms, personal finance partner at accountants Coopers & Lybrand. "Our advice to clients is to act on the basis of knowledge, not hearsay."



You're laughing with Labour... Tony Blair and his merry men pose no threat to the City now

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARTIN ARGLES

A change in income tax rates is a racing certainty, but there may be less resistance to a raising of the top rate than Labour critics hope, and their spin-doctors fear. The current 40 per cent top rate of tax is low by the standard of most developed countries and tax advisers think a Labour government could raise it to 50 per cent without an electoral backlash. "Top earners are likely to see an increase in-

come tax," says Moira Elms, "but we find that the vast majority of taxpayers do not resent income tax until it breaks the psychological barrier of 50 per cent."

Arthur Andersen's David Oliver believes Labour would introduce a more graded system of income, to lessen the severity of the jump from basic-rate to top-rate tax. Mr Oliver also thinks voters would sanction a top-rate tax of 60 per cent provided only the super-rich were targeted.

"Taxpayers worry not just about what tax they pay on current earnings, but also what tax they might pay on their future earnings," he says. "There's something emotive about six figures, so perhaps a 60 per cent top-rate tax on income over £100,000 might not be too upsetting to middle-income voters."

Labour remains opposed to John Major's intention to abolish both Inheritance Tax (IHT) and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and is likely to close

some of the present loopholes. In particular, Labour is likely to stop the use of Potentially Exempt Transfers (PETs) which allow individuals to escape IHT liability on gifts made during their lifetime, provided that the transferor is still alive seven years after the date of the gift.

CGT reliefs such as retirement, holdover and reinvestment reliefs may also be withdrawn or modified. However, those holding long-term investments could benefit if

Labour goes ahead with plans to introduce a two-tier CGT system that would levy a lower rate for assets held longer. Investors can also expect other incentives to boost long-term savings. Last week, Labour's City spokesman Alisdair Darling added more flesh to the party's plans for a new savings vehicle — the Individual Savings Account — which would sit between Tessa and pensions. With retirement and long-term care in mind, savers would be encour-

aged to lock away capital for a period longer than the current five years required by Tessa. The success of Tessa and Peps so far probably guarantees their future.

Tim Jones, a partner at accountants Binder Hamlyn, thinks a Labour government might give a boost to investors in National Savings, lifting the current £10,000 cap on deposits or "beefing up" Premium Bonds as an alternative to the Lottery. Mr Jones says Labour may be more imaginative in devising a pension scheme that allows people to combine private and state provisions for retirement.

HESAYS: "A Labour government might decide to ring-fence National Insurance contributions so that people are assured that whatever they pay in will go towards their retirement fund, not into the roads budget or defence spending."

The City has harboured the greatest reservations about Labour policies in the past, but even stockbrokers are becoming less bearish. According to Finsbury Asset Management, most of the fears about a Labour government will be discounted by election day. It is advising its clients that equities might actually benefit from a shift to the left. Finsbury points to recent experience in the US, where the Dow Jones index has risen nearly 70 per cent since Bill Clinton's election; the FTSE 100 has risen just over 30 per cent in the same period.

Why the self-employed need not fear Revenue bonanza

David Brodie

MOST taxpayers will know of self-assessment following an intense Inland Revenue advertising campaign and extensive media coverage. One "news" story recycled often enough to win an environmental award concerns an £850 million windfall expected by the Revenue in 1996/97. This will arise from payments by self-employed taxpayers. It was first revealed by the Treasury last November and has been the subject of much inaccurate comment. Historically, the self-

employed have been taxed on their earnings of the previous year, while they are now to be taxed on current year's income instead. This necessitates a change in 1996/97, when most people will be assessed on one-half of their profits for the two years ending in 1996/97.

If profits have been rising steadily, this will bring forward the date on which tax is due, which explains the Treasury's windfall. But "back-horror" stories suggesting that each sole trader faces a tax increase of £200 are very wide of the mark, since the extra revenue is partly attributable to greater num-

bers of self-employed workers, and many individuals will actually gain from the change.

Not everyone has enjoyed the luxury of rising profits. If your profits have been falling, you will benefit from paying tax on your current earnings rather than income of the previous year. And even if income has been rising, you may benefit from a change of accounting date if your business year-end has been early in the tax year.

Michael Jordan has been drawing up accounts to April 30 annually, and his recent earnings have been unusually high. He may benefit from deferring the end of his latest

accounting period from April 30, 1996, to 31 March 31, 1997. Under special rules, his tax for 1996/97 will be based on 12/35ths of his income for the 35 months covered by the two accounting periods running up to March 31, 1997.

This means that almost two-thirds of his current high earnings escape tax altogether. It should be stressed that these rules are complex and anyone considering such a change should obtain professional guidance.

A separate cash-flow advantage of self-assessment is that each instalment of tax falls a month later, on January 31 and July 31 each year. The Reve-

nue will be sending taxpayers details of the first bills towards the end of this year.

Complaints about the Inland Revenue are as old as tax itself, but not enough taxpayers realise the help available under the Taxpayer's Charter which promises a fair, helpful and efficient service, and offers compensation where tax offices have been guilty of serious errors or delay.

In many such cases, you will be entitled to a reimbursement for unnecessary costs, ranging from extra phone calls or postage needed to sort things out, to extra accountancy fees. And if you have lost earnings through the time

wasted, this may be compensated too.

But not all bureaucratic foul-ups involve such costs — although they may still cause a great deal of upset — and the Revenue has now extended the protection of the Charter to include payments for worry or distress. These may be made where serious tax office errors cause "a significant and unwarranted intrusion into your life", or there has been an unjustified delay exceeding two years. Most consoling payments will be £50 to £250, but sums of up to £1,000 and more will be paid in exceptional cases.

Quite separately, the Revenue may waive tax arrears if it fails to notify you of them before the end of the tax year following that in which it received the necessary information, and where you might have reasonably believed that your affairs were in order.

Full details are given in the latest Code of Practice 1 — Mistakes by the Inland Revenue, available from all tax offices. And if your complaint itself is mishandled, there is compensation on offer for this as well.

David Brodie is director of TaxAid, a charity which provides free tax advice to individuals who cannot afford professional fees. Telephone 0171-624-3768 between 9-11am weekdays.

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*Regular withdrawals refers to regular payments you can receive by cancelling units in your Bond. Issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

DIY brewery's bargain beer puts Chancellor over a barrel

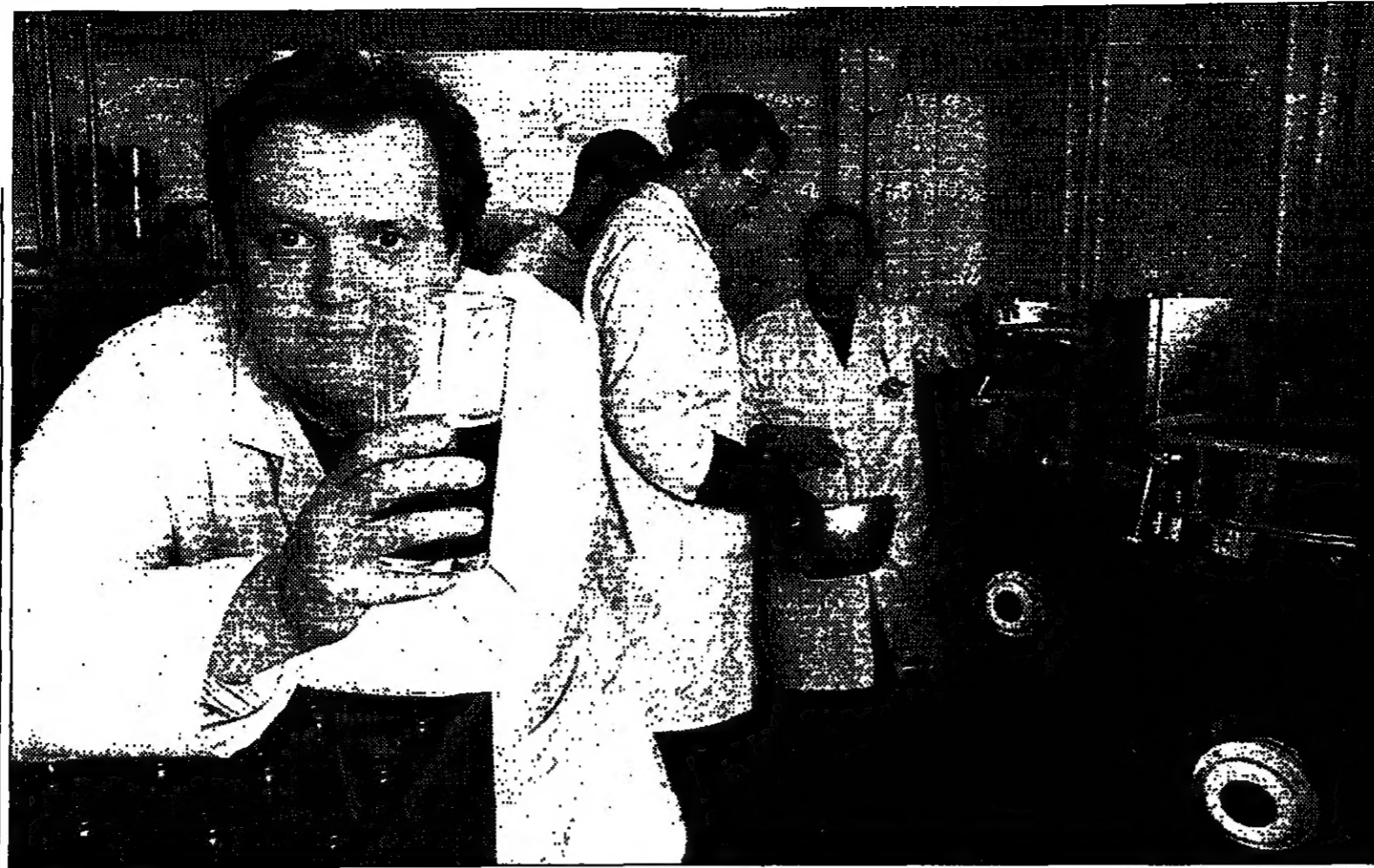
Great Stour Brewery in Canterbury, Kent, is proving a popular alternative to hopping across the Channel for buying beer without having to hand money to the Chancellor, writes Lisa Buckingham.

The brew-it-yourself venture, which opened in April with £300,000 of investment, much from business "angels", has hit its first month's target with sales of more than £10,000.

Great Stour, based in 250-year-old premises in the city centre, gives punters the chance to brew their own beer or lager. Excise duty does not apply to home-brewed produce, as long as it is not resold, and Great Stour's prices range from 40p a pint to about 63p.

Established and 26 per cent-owned by Toby Mynott (pictured), Great Stour expects turnover of about £200,000 in its first year. It also boasts a shop with wares including "You Smell Like Brewery" aftershave, ale-spiked chutneys and beer-flavoured condoms.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MANSSELL



Saturday Notebook

Getting ready for life after George



Alex Brummer

A KEY appointment that will have to be dealt with by the next government — whatever its political stripe — will be that of Governor of the Bank of England.

Although Eddie George's term of office does not expire until June 30, 1996, it is crucial to get his appointment in place well before then. Early favourite would appear to be Deputy Governor Howard Davies, who has been developing a power base inside and outside the Bank.

The nurturing of a regional economic intelligence service, whose findings will be published in US "beige-book" style along with the Quarterly Inflation Report, gives Mr Davies a handle on economic policymaking, the main prerogative of his internal rival Mervyn King. It is the latter's rigorous analysis of the monetary and economic run that has helped to build the credibility of the Bank's post-ERM framework.

Mr Davies, whose career has been marked by a series of well-timed moves, is also making a special effort to court future potential economic bosses in the Labour Party. He has been somewhat concerned, for instance, that somehow he managed to offend Gordon Brown.

eral Reserve that cost his presidency so much economic grief in the 1980 election.

That may be a lesson which the ultra-cautious Gordon Brown, as Chancellor, will take with him in 1997, as he takes office. In fact there might even be a case, as with President Clinton and Alan Greenspan, to remove the post of central bank chief from the political agenda by doing the safe thing early: giving Mr George his second term.

That is a possible outcome which appears to have escaped the attention of Mr George's potential successors. At present there are two front-running inside candidates, although Labour's senior hierarchy is making it plain it would like to see its net wider. Early favourite would appear to be Deputy Governor Howard Davies, who has been developing a power base inside and outside the Bank.

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Subsidy fuels nuclear row

Industrial Editor

THE Government faced demands to abandon its nuclear power sale last night when it revealed a multi-billion pound package of measures to bolster the privatisation and a near-£4 billion grant for the closure of stations which would remain in the public sector.

The package was disclosed in a written reply by energy minister Tim Eggar which

was slipped out yesterday. Although some elements of the package were expected, the £3.8 billion grant for cleaning up ageing Magnox stations, which are not being privatised, had not.

It shows that ministers expect to call on taxpayers to meet the costs of decommissioning the stations even though electricity consumers have already been paying up to £1.2 billion each year since 1990 to meet the closure costs.

Some critics last night accused the Government of forcing taxpayers and consumers to pay the Magnox bill twice.

In the City the view was that the new grant was an admission by the Government that it was going to get much less than its original £2.6 billion target for the sale of the industry. "The whole sale continues to smell pretty awful," said one City observer.

Labour immediately called for the sell-off to be scrapped, describing it as "among the biggest rip-offs so far for taxpayers".

Energy spokesman John Battle said the Government

had admitted that the taxpayer would be liable for up to £3.8 billion for Magnox stations, over £1 billion more than it originally hoped to raise from the sale of more modern advanced gas-cooled reactors and Sizewell B.

"This proves Labour's long-held assertion that the taxpayer is being left with a bill to clean up the Magnox stations, while losing a revenue stream from the more modern ones, despite decades of investment in them," he said.

Mr Eggar's package also includes a £3 billion write-down

of the assets of British Energy, the company formed to take the most modern reactors into the private sector, in a move which will boost its profitability by an estimated £50 million and help to guarantee a dividend for investors.

The Government has also sanctioned a more generous accounting system for British Energy's liabilities.

By using a 3 per cent discount rate rather than the standard industry rate of 5 per cent, it will allow British Energy to declare decommissioning and clean-up costs in

its books at £3.7 billion instead of £7.8 billion.

Mr Eggar said that the Magnox grant would be applied only when the new public-sector company, Magnox Electric, had used up its £3 billion budget, and any other income from sales of electricity and from the nuclear levy, the surcharge on all electricity bills which is set to expire soon.

He said the Government intended to integrate Magnox Electric with British Nuclear Fuels, the nuclear reprocessing company, after the privatisation of British Energy.

posed by the introduction of a single currency.

The paper also makes it clear that there remain divisions in some areas about the need for changes, particularly over the provision of settlement facilities for securities denominated in euros if Britain opts out.

"Some argue that such facilities would be an important element in sustaining the City's competitive position; others that we already have satisfactory ways of settling deals in European currencies... which do not inhibit London from having a significant, sometimes dominant, share of trading in these instruments."

Names get extra £1.2bn but fury at agents grows

Pauline Springett

LOYD'S of London yesterday increased the help it is offering to loss-stricken Names by £1.2 billion. The cash offer has been raised by £300 million to £3.1 billion and the cost of setting up the Equitas company to manage old claims has been cut by £500 million to £1 billion.

The news was welcomed by most of the key Names' action groups, but a hard core of dissidents warned they would reject it. Lloyd's said the package would give greater assistance to Names who have paid their losses and extra help for those who cannot pay more.

The deal for litigating Names has been enhanced, especially for those who have won damages through the courts and have compensation payments held on their behalf by lawyers, such as the Gooda Walker and Feltrin groups.

Lloyd's chairman David Rowland said the latest figures were effectively final. Next month the 34,000 Names will receive statements showing how the offer affects them.

Lloyd's has lost more than £3 billion in recent years over the Piper Alpha oil rig explosion, Hurricane Hugo and US asbestos and pollution claims.

Since the original £2.8 billion cash and debt forgiveness offer was unveiled last year, Mr Rowland and his team have been working to secure additional contributions. These efforts have been partially successful, with both the brokers and the auditors promising to pay £100 million each. Lloyd's has also raised £270 million on the sale of assets including its Lime Street underwriting headquarters and its publishing arm.

Nick Land, senior partner of accountants Ernst & Young, which is the main auditor in the Lloyd's market is understood to have offered over half of the £100 million, said he hoped the deal would mean an end to the litigation.

There was anger among the Names at the refusal of the market's managing agents to offer more than the £200 million suggested in the original deal. Alan Porter, chairman of both the Cuthbert Heath and Donshire action groups, described the new offer as disappointing and said contributions from the managing agents, brokers and auditors were inadequate.

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association's working party, welcomed the improvement but said it did nothing to prevent the financial ruin of the worst hit Names.

Prepare now for euro, says Bank

Mark Millner European Business Editor

THE City's financial markets need to plan now for the introduction of the single European currency, even if Britain subsequently exercises its right to opt out, the Bank of England said yesterday.

Trading and settlement systems will need to be adapted to cope with the introduction of the euro, whether or not Britain signs up for the first wave of monetary union.

"We believe it important for the City and the UK that the financial markets should

have the capacity to provide time to prepare because changes would not need to be implemented until the introduction of euro notes and coins — some three years after the move to a single currency.

The Bank's paper, intended to be first in a regular series, is clearly intended to spur City institutions and the financial markets into a discussion of the legal and technical problems which will be thrown up by monetary union and to make it clear that the Bank itself is determined to play a leading role in co-ordinating the City's response to the challenges

posed by the introduction of a single currency.

The paper also makes it clear that there remain divisions in some areas about the need for changes, particularly over the provision of settlement facilities for securities denominated in euros if Britain opts out.

"Some argue that such facilities would be an important element in sustaining the City's competitive position; others that we already have satisfactory ways of settling deals in European currencies... which do not inhibit London from having a significant, sometimes dominant, share of trading in these instruments."

paid their assessments should look to reopen their case."

"This comes on top of the £3 billion cost to the Exchequer of last month's Appeal Court ruling on VAT and interest-free credit agreements.

The VATman did win a round yesterday when a High Court judge refused to refer to Europe a dispute which could leave the Government with a £20 billion bill.

Three companies are considering whether to appeal after Mr Justice Turner upheld VAT tribunal rulings barring them from reclaiming tax on company cars.

He said it was unnecessary to send the cases to the European Court of Justice as the law on the issue was clear and could be decided in the UK "with complete confidence".

The companies — food group Allied-Lyons (now Allied Domecq), car leaser Royco and motor dealer TC Harrison Group — are seeking to force the Government to reimburse VAT paid since 1973, plus interest.

News in brief

Bondholders sue Barings board

Directors of Barings Bank are being sued for £100 million by bondholders who lost their money when the merchant bank collapsed in 1995.

Members of the Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action Group launched their long-threatened suit yesterday against Barings plc, its directors, and advisers, including Hoare Govett, Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Cazenove.

The proceedings are not being contested by administrators of the bank.

Upbeat Zeneca

Shares of pharmaceutical group Zeneca moved up 11p to 137p yesterday after an upbeat trading statement from chairman Sir Sydney Lipworth.

Musical pirates

Sales of pirated re-recorded music topped £1.4 billion last year, according to estimates by the International Federation of Phonographic Industries. This was the equivalent of unauthorised sales of 866 million cassettes, 85 million CDs and 4 million albums. The IFPI cited Bulgaria, Romania,

Russia, Italy, China and Brazil as countries where piracy remained at unacceptably high levels. Pirate sales in the UK fell 40 per cent.

Norwich block

Members of Norwich Union yesterday voted unanimously in favour of allowing the mutual's directors to prevent new members from joining the group. Membership remains open at the moment but the new rule is designed to block an influx of so-called "carpet-baggers" from cashing in on pay-outs to members if the group does decide to become a public limited company. Norwich Union has conceded that its future is currently under review.

BICC setback

A half-billion pound lawsuit against the Bank of England on behalf of creditors of collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International suffered a setback yesterday. High Court judge Mr Justice Clarke ruled that, on the facts before him, the Bank could not be held liable for the ancient legal injury of "misfeasance in public office" and that depositors' losses were therefore not capable of having been caused by the Bank.

Stronger UK growth next year may delay poll

Sarah Fyfe

SIGNS that the economy is on course for stronger growth next year came yesterday with official figures showing a significant pick-up is due just before the deadline for the General Election.

According to government forecasts, the economy will continue to be sluggish until the end of the year, but by May 1997 the growth rate should have been strengthening for four months.

This suggests that the Prime Minister may not go to the polls before he has to.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that the rise in the long-term forecast — which looks 13 months ahead — had been influenced by improved figures for housing starts.

Business optimism, as recorded by the Confederation of British Industry, was lower than at the same time last year but positive enough to boost the index.

Economic outlook



VAT refund bill may hit £500m

Dan Atkinson

THE Government faces a £500 million bill for VAT refunds to companies involved in takeover since 1973, accountants Binder Hamlyn said yesterday. The Appeal Court ruled that VAT should be reclaimable on the costs of taking over firms supplying VAT-rated goods and services.

From the introduction of VAT in 1973, Customs and Excise believed acquisition costs should be treated as general business overheads. If the acquiring company were VAT-exempt, only a portion of the tax could be recovered.

Now costs, such as legal and accountancy fees, run up in taking over a VAT-paying business are fully VAT-refundable. In the past, some firms disputed the Customs interpretation, said Binder's partner Alan Buckett, but "others may have accepted Customs' former view and incorrectly restricted their VAT recovery. Those who have

Chill in cloisters

In a monastery's jargon, business goes to pot, says Paul Nettleton

THE commercial realities of recession and squeezed profits have intruded on the cloistered world of a Benedictine monastery which is being forced to sell its world famous pottery.

Prinknash Pottery, founded 60 years ago by monks at the abbey in Cranham, Gloucestershire, was put up for sale yesterday in an attempt to prevent its closure and the loss of 30 jobs. News of the decision was contained in a release from Gravitas Public Relations.

The black and gold wine

Stoking bonfire of the banalities

Dan Atkinson on management gurus who reject all those theories except...

EVERYTHING you ever suspected about those fashionable business theories is true. In fact, with a failure rate as high as 80 per cent, "business transformation" schemes may be even more counter-productive than the average cynic imagined.

Remember "management by objectives", "total quality", "critical success", "business process re-engineering" and "strategic alliances"? Into the

bin with the lot of them, according to Neil Farmer and Bob Lankester.

"[It's] a awful truth," they claim. "It's only now dawning... Business change has up to now been a fashion industry with very high levels of false hope, bandwagon effects, dissatisfaction and failure."

For those convinced that mediocre businessmen are easy prey to rapacious consultants expounding vapid theories, the best is yet to come: "Senior executives may have a limited knowledge of business design techniques and so become susceptible to business 'fashions', while the consultants often have a particular methodology and need to optimise their return on the

particular business fashion of the moment.

"This combination can prove fatal to a company's success."

But Messrs Farmer and Lankester are not quite the liberating heroes they seem. In their bonfire of management theories, one is spared — Total Business Design.

This system, promulgated in a book of the same name, promises "a strong, reliable and effective framework for success." The authors and inventors? Farmer and Lankester.

Die-hards may cling to the belief that this theory will at least be jargon-free, a return to plain business sense. Oh yes! Among the simple steps to success identified by the

duo we find: "Identify and prioritise the main business objectives for change."

Later, analysing the "40 human 'hot buttons' of business change", the tone becomes quite unpleasant. Noting the importance of winning over key employees, or "influencers", to the idea of radical change, Farmer and Lankester warn that, should the shake-up run into "serious problems", this would indicate "a need to remove one or more negative influencers from positions of influence".

In other words, here's a management theory providing ready-made excuses to sack people.

It's not so different from the others, after all.

Chill in cloisters

goblets and pewter-glazed ware were a staple line of the traditional "gift shop" which closed in droves during the recession of the 1980s.

"We responded by increasing our overseas markets by 60 per cent, especially in the US, the Middle East and mainland Europe, but the price structure we have had to work with means margins have become very tight and we have been up against it for the past four or five years."

Father Peter, prior and bursar of the abbey, said export turnover alone last year was some £500,000.

"To continue to compete as we would, the business needs re-investment and more management time and as an active charity the community has neither the personnel nor the resources to fund the investment."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,837.5	France 7.55	Italy 2,330	Singapore 2.08
Austria 157.8	Germany 2,250	Malta 0.550	South Africa 6.5205
Belgium 46.05	Greece 361.00	Netherlands 2.150	Spain 168.000
Canada 2,050	Hong Kong 11.48	New Zealand 2.500	Sweden 1.15
Cyprus 0.950	India 23.00	Norway 9.71	Switzerland 1.82
Denmark 8.71	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 202.00	Turkey 111.895
Finland 7.14	Israel 4.93	Saudi Arabia 5.58	USA 1,487.5

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian Rupee and Hong Kong dollar).

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

They built the Mac. They hated men in suits. Then it went away. So they hired a new boss, and another, and then another. Will the nerds grow up in time? MARK TRAN in New York reports



'Cupertino, we have ourselves a little trouble'

WHEN Gilbert Amelio took to the podium set up at Caffe Macca to face 80 journalists in February, he was the picture of calm, the eye at the centre of the hurricane. "We have ourselves a little trouble now," he said with some understatement. "The troubles are fixable. I've been down this road before. My mission is to make complex technology simple, accessible, delightful."

Mr Amelio, 55, was known for treating around National Semiconductor, although some wonder how much credit he deserves. One industry executive believes he was simply lucky, coming in when the chip industry was in an upswing. He that as it may, Mr Amelio possesses the technical qualifications that both his predecessors lacked. He has 16 patents and a PhD in physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

He is very different from the traditional Apple creature. Maybe he is too grown-up. He co-wrote Profit from Experience: The National Semiconductor Story of Transformation Management. Writing in Rolling Stone, Jeff Goodell, a Mac fan, described it as reading like a "junior college course in corporate management theory, full of arcane charts and graphs and Hallmark-cardlike drivel."

Mr Amelio has been criticised for his generous compensation package of \$10 million (\$6.8 million) a year, with another \$1.0 million if Apple is sold during the next year. Many Apple employees thought it unseemly that Mr Amelio also found time to shop for a \$5 million estate in Lake Tahoe when he was supposed to be developing a strategy to save the company.

Politically, Mr Amelio is out of tune with Apple, which prides itself on its progressive policies. It was one of the first companies to offer insurance benefits to same-sex partners. Mr Amelio belongs in the Republican camp, having hosted fundraisers for the likes of presidential hopeful Robert Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But his employees will overlook those ties as long as Mr Amelio succeeds in restoring Apple's fortunes.

So far he has impressed Wall Street by taking some tough decisions to trim Apple's workforce, laying off 1,500 people, bringing total job cuts to 2,800. Apple employees accept this harsh medicine for a company that had grown beyond its means and feel relief that someone is making unpopular decisions. It is a familiar pattern. In the trauma of 1985, when he pushed aside Steve Jobs, John Sculley laid off a fifth of the workforce.

Clearly Mr Amelio hopes to get the worst out of the way early on. The approach has gone down well with customers. "I'm game to give Gil Amelio a chance," said Donald Montabana, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Computing Resource Centre.

One Wall Street analyst, Barry Bosak of Smith Barney, thinks Mr Amelio's managerial skills "could be an initial remedy in making the organisation functional... Apple has needed a CEO who can simply take a stand and not succumb to its own culture — meaning he can lead the organisation to some reasonable goals."

Net gain for a rotten Apple

APPLE Computer has lurched from crisis to crisis ever since it succeeded a generation with its user-friendly machines two decades ago to establish itself as an American lion.

Periodically, Apple tosses out its chief executive officer and ushers in a new saviour. In 1985, visionary co-founder Steve Jobs lost an epic battle to John Sculley, a former Pepsi executive. In 1983, Mr Sculley made way for Michael Spindler, a number cruncher who botched his forecasts. In February, Gilbert Amelio, formerly head of another Silicon Valley operation, chip maker National Semiconductor, became the latest white knight.

What a contrast to Apple's nemesis, Microsoft. Bill Gates has grown from a nerd into a formidable chief executive,

making the software giant a paragon of stability. Each time a new man steps into the breach at Apple, a familiar refrain goes up: "At last an adult is in charge."

But the company refuses to grow up. It is now paying the price for its immaturity. Apple has been plagued by culture wars between its creative people and marketing and finance managers. Messrs Sculley and Spindler, appointed to instil managerial discipline, had their moments.

But they lacked the determination to push through tough decisions on issues such as licensing, which could have prevented Apple from sinking into the quagmire.

It was time to cultivate a hip, anti-corporate image when Apple was an entrepreneurial outfit. The television advertisement shown during the

1984 Super Bowl crystallised the company's attitude. A woman athlete entered into a drab auditorium packed with corporate drones watching a figure on a big video screen. She hurled a hammer, smashing the screen. The ad lasted 60 seconds, cost \$1.6 million (\$1.05 million) and appeared once.

Apple headquarters in Cupertino, with its sight of California's coastal mountains, consists of six buildings in a campus-like setting, including trimmings like the Caffe Macca staff restaurant. It is all designed to make employees feel special. There is nothing wrong in fostering pride and a sense of uniqueness, but the process has spun out of control and Apple is trapped in a consensus culture that hampers decisive management.

On the eve of Mr Amelio's much-awaited "big speech" on

Monday, Apple announced the latest glitch to hit its products. Some PowerPC models frequently freeze up during operation because of defective chips. The latest bug follows last summer's PR debacle when batteries in some laptops short-circuited and caught fire.

During his first 100 days, Mr Amelio has sketched out his vision for Apple, which he deems "fixable". He wants to simplify the product line (47 models in 1995), build on key markets and promote brand awareness.

Two-thirds of Apple's yearly revenue comes from low-margin products sold primarily to the home, small-business and education markets. The remaining third comes from sales of top-of-the-line computers like the 7500, 8500 and 9500, as well as most PowerBooks and servers

(powerful computers accessible on the Internet). These high-margin products are complex to design, difficult to build and require skilled development of software and hardware. Because Apple has to spread the profits from these machines over a product line covering low-margin items, innovation and product reliability have been eroded.

For years, Apple has been debating whether it is a hardware or a software company and its failure to resolve that question has contributed to its downfall.

Mr Gates knew his priorities. He was interested not in the boxes but in the brains inside the box. Apple wanted to do both boxes and brains and has been caught out. The possible solution, licensing out manufacturing, goes to the core of Apple's identity. Its efforts have been half-hearted,

attaching too many conditions in case licenses undercut Apple's own.

Apple users were encouraged by the latest deal with IBM, but the agreement on the Macintosh operating system falls short of "Big Blue" building Mac clones. Instead, IBM will sublicense the system to other, smaller computer makers.

Apple could attract some big names by handing over the \$3 billion Performa business, possibly even its name, to a licensee unburdened by expensive research and development. It still be assured a \$50 per unit licensing fee.

By moving less-profitable products to licensing partners, Apple could focus on what it does best — developing new technology, especially for the Internet.

The net, for which Apple

has several promising products, such as Cyberdog, a network browser, and Flipper, a games machine with net applications, could be a godsend. It is a great leveller, where even mighty Microsoft must start from scratch. This is Apple's comeback chance.

Moving out of the hardware business will be tricky, but the potential rewards huge. Apple would become in effect the Microsoft of Macintosh. It is the opposite strategy to that pursued by Mr Spindler, who tried to increase the market share of Apple's cheaper computers, with disastrous results.

For Apple employees, the debate on licensing and software sounds like a broken record. Mr Sculley made a half-hearted stab at change, but allowed Apple culture to stymie him. Mr Spindler believed it was too late to am-

brace licensing and puttered along until disastrous misreadings of consumer demand led to his demise.

Those wayward forecasts contributed to the latest quarterly loss of \$740 million, an Apple record. Apple suffered badly under Mr Spindler, nicknamed the Diesel, as droves of talent jumped ship. That the agency was allowed to drag on for so long must be blamed on Apple's notoriously hands-off board of directors and chairman Mike Markkula, who gave money to Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak to help Apple get started. Mr Markkula only acted after a virtual shareholder revolt in January.

Apple has bounced back from adversity before. This time it is running out of time and money. Perhaps this is the crisis that will force Apple to mend its childish ways.

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Major makes the rules

Sarah Whitebloom

THERE is no point in paying attention to any verdict or judgment before the highest court in the UK, or even Brussels, has had a crack at the case.

That would seem to be the logic behind the Prime Minister's effective dismissal of the findings of John Magill, the district auditor who this week condemned Westminster councillors for running a homes-for-votes policy.

It is not just petty criminals who could now argue that they are not guilty until the House of Lords has said so. Corporations should put up or shut up. And the huge number of quasi-judicial authorities face a bleak future if John Major's reaction is applied to their rulings.

The implications for Whitehall are clear. There is no need to listen to the Parliamentary Ombuds-

man anymore. Like Mr Magill, he is only one man and what is his opinion worth? All the Barlow Clowes investors who were bailed out after he criticised the DTI should hand the money back forthwith.

The Trade Secretary should have told them that he would see them in court and let the Lords decide whether the investors were wise to entrust their cash to Peter Clowes.

For the business community, Mr Major's stance offers even greater scope. Rulings by the Monopolies Commission have always proved inconvenient. Now they can be safely ignored by firms until the courts have had their say.

It is certain that businesses like Kingfisher, the Woolworth owner, whose bid for rival Dixons was blocked by the MMC, will be happy to follow Mr Major's lead.

As for the Director General of Fair Trading, who is he to ban rogue estate agents and debt collectors? Why should companies put up with his interference in their price-rigging cartels? Banks are also looking at a substantial upside if they choose to apply the Major rules rather than the Bank of England's London rules. The Old Lady's eyebrows won't work as effectively on

a jury. The days of the Take-over Panel must also be numbered if companies take Mr Major's line and call for judicial reviews of its high-handed decisions.

But perhaps the closest parallel and the most appropriate way in which the new thinking can be applied is in respect of DTI investigation reports. Although this was possibly not his intention, Mr Major will have a lot of backers for his views among those who have fallen foul of company inspectors. From now on such opinions — although they have hitherto been issued with the Government's imprimatur — can be safely disregarded by all.

The Harveys owner, Mohamed Fayad, has long argued that he has suffered because of completely arbitrary comments by the House of Fraser inspectors.

Those individuals criticised in the County NatWest report into the Blue Arrow affair — and subsequently found not guilty in a court of law — will also be able to point to unsatisfied reputations.

Mr Major's biggest fan, however, would have been the late Robert Maxwell, a prime example of what happens when everyone ignores the findings of important individuals such as Mr Magill.

Quick Crossword No. 8123

FLASHBACK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24			

Across

- 1 Women's vade mecum (7)
- 8 Runner, jumper, etc (7)
- 9 Sleeping quarters (7)
- 10 British (7)
- 11 Flashlight (5)
- 13 All people (5)
- 15 Quack (5)
- 18 Male 14 or admiral (5)
- 21 Wrap around (7)
- 22 Bishop of Barchester (and wife) (7)
- 23 Impolite (7)
- 24 Just so (7)

Down

- 1 Custom or dress (5)
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- 4 Speculate (5)

5 The English way with Scotch? (5,3,4)
6 Central American country (5)
7 Miscellaneous, maybe musical (5)
12 Swearword (4)
14 Bird — lower head! (4)
16 Money order (5)
18 Counsel (5)
17 (Cause to) fall headlong (5)
19 Check on account (5)
20 Adversary (5)

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